

To Earl D. Remillard

Sent by

Harriet A. Tied

City Town Clerk

June 15, 1984

**History
of the
Town of Gill
Franklin County, Massachusetts
1793-1943**



by
Ralph M. Stoughton

Published by the Town as a Bicentennial Project

1978

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The Gill Bicentennial Committee
May, 1978

FOREWORD

The Town of Gill, incorporated September 28, 1793, lies in the northwestern section of Massachusetts within the Connecticut Valley. It formed a part of the Town of Deerfield originally, and was included in the portion set off June 9, 1753 as the district of Greenfield. In 1753 that district became a township. The first settlers on the land that became Gill who arrived before 1753 and lived later than 1793 were therefore inhabitants of the towns of Deerfield, Greenfield, and Gill successively, even though they made no change of abode during all those years. Some residents of Northfield also became inhabitants of Gill when the so-called "Grass Hill" section of Northfield was annexed February 28, 1795.

The early history of Gill consequently is merged in the histories of the townships to which it previously belonged. As a town, it took no part in colonial affairs because it was not incorporated until seventeen years after the Declaration of Independence had been signed. The land within its boundaries was settled too late to figure largely in the hazards of Indian depredations, though one incident vastly important to the settlement of this section of the Connecticut and Deerfield valleys happened within its area—the many-times recounted battle on May 19, 1676, when Captain William Turner and his men surprised the Indians encamped "at the nook of the falls" and victoriously established the permanence of the settlement at Deerfield; albeit the Indians took ample revenge under the leadership of the French when the village was sacked on February 29, 1704.

The Town of Gill also had no distinct Revolutionary War records to its credit, as its activities were combined in those of the Town of Greenfield of which it was then a part.

All in all, a rather baffling task is presented when an attempt is made to compile the history of a town deprived of the main features upon which most town histories depend for elements of interest; and the problem is made all the greater by the previous publication of full histories of the two towns from which the Town of Gill was finally apportioned.

In order, therefore, that some proper historical perspective may be preserved, the present township of Gill has been taken as a geographical unit, and the incidents that happened upon its soil, and the individuals who lived within its limits, are claimed as belonging to its particular

history, irrespective of the fact that the town at the time may have been either a part of Deerfield or a part of Greenfield. There is no intention, however, of sifting these elements from the published histories of those towns and repeating them in full. It is needless to tell again completely what has already been ably recounted. The purpose of this history is to tell Gill's story as simply and as readably as possible, and at the same time to give sufficient historical connection.

Sources of authority have been indicated by direct quotation wherever possible. It should be borne in mind in this connection, however, that in early days schooling was a very haphazard affair, and many town officers had received only the beginnings of elementary instruction. Town records, and other records also, as a consequence are filled with curious vagaries of spelling because the spelling of each written word was governed wholly by the ability to spell possessed by the particular clerk who made the entry. Oftentimes several variations appear in one record, as though the scribe believed it to be an indication of erudition to be able to spell a word in many ways. Ministers, lawyers, and others holding university or college degrees were no exceptions. The same application must be made in the case of surnames and baptismal names, and the spelling found in a record is not necessarily proof that it is correct.

Without possession of the store of data and documents preserved by my grandfather, Timothy M. Stoughton, and by my aunts, Lucy and Elizabeth Stoughton, this history would be far more incomplete. Indebtedness is also acknowledged to many now deceased who loaned family papers or furnished information unavailable through records: Mr. Henry B. Barton, Mr. Lewis C. Munn, Mr. Charles W. Deane, Mr. Edwin T. Williams, Mrs. Nancy Wyart Bowman, Mrs. Flora Brown Graves, and Mrs. Mary Purple Stratton. For the same reasons mention is also made of Miss Maverette Johnson and Mrs. Alice G. Blake, librarian of the Slate Memorial Library, as well as many descendants of the early settlers scattered throughout the United States, too numerous to mention individually.

To Mrs. Lucy Cutler Kellogg, historian and genealogist, whose "History of Bernardston, Massachusetts" is well known, and to whose encouragement the undertaking of this history was largely due, the writer tenders a special acknowledgment of assistance.

R. M. S.

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Chapter 1

POCUMTUCK

As soon as the Connecticut River became known to the colonists of Massachusetts, the rich, alluvial land through which it flows began to attract settlers, and by the year 1636 settlements had been established at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford in Connecticut, and at Springfield in Massachusetts. A steady drift of other settlers followed, and adventurers pushed on up the river. Northampton was founded, and then Hadley. Within a quarter of a century the population of these valley towns in Massachusetts had become sufficient to warrant the formation of Hampshire County in 1662. It is not at all strange, therefore, that the proprietors of the Town of Dedham looked to this section of Massachusetts in 1664 when they had the privilege of choosing the location of 8,000 acres of land granted them by the General Court as compensation for its infringement upon their rights when John Eliot was allotted 2,000 acres for his use to educate and Christianize the Indians.

John Eliot, who came to be known as "the Apostle to the Indians," had been educated for the ministry at Jesus College in Cambridge, Old England, when the tide of nonconformity swept him to New England in 1631. As teacher of the parish organized at Roxbury, he soon became concerned about the spiritual welfare of the native Indians, and turned his attention to their conversion. He discovered, however, that teaching had little lasting effect on roving savages, and that effort to convert them would largely be in vain unless they could be gathered together in some place of permanent habitation. His first attempts toward the accomplishment of this at Newton proved unsatisfactory; local habitation was not enough for success. It was necessary to educate the Indians to a proper understanding of the conventions of civilization before they could become real converts to Christianity.

In order to aid and promote Eliot's undertaking, the General Court in 1651 set aside 2,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Natick for an Indian plantation. Here Eliot gathered his Indian disciples, set up a form of civil government, and started schools for the Indian children. When the boundaries of this plantation were laid out, it was discovered that the entire 2,000 acres came within the limits of the township of Dedham, and some twelve years elapsed before the General Court finally settled the controversy that ensued concerning the matter of redress. The liti-

gation was closed June 2, 1663 when Dedham was granted the privilege of choosing 8,000 acres elsewhere to replace the 2,000 acres taken by the Court unwarrantedly.

Action in the matter was left in the hands of the Selectmen of Dedham, and during the following year several locations were given consideration. At a meeting held on November 6, 1664, the selectmen reported that they had "heard of a considerable Tract of good Land that might be answerable to the Town's expectation, about 12 or 14 miles from Hadley, and think it meet, in behalfe of the Towne to provide that 8,000 Acres may be chosen and layd out to sattisfie that grant ther, wth all convennient speed, before any other Grantee enter upon it." Representatives, accordingly, were delegated to visit the locality, and to lay out the 8,000 acres if the site met with their approval.

The Dedham committee performed this mission in May 1665 and found that the land recommended to their attention was situated slightly west of the Connecticut River, above the Hatfield section of Hadley. The place was called "Pocumtuck" by the natives, because it had been the principal camping ground of the Pocumtucks, long the dominant Indian tribe in this part of the Connecticut Valley. When famine had threatened the settlements in Connecticut during the winter of 1637-8, no corn could be bought from the Indians until contact with the Pocumtucks had been made; and it was from Pocumtuck that the Indians dispatched a fleet of fifty canoes freighted with 500 bushels of corn for the relief of the starving whites. The ability of these Indians to release so large a quantity of surplus corn attests not only to the fertility of the soil thereabouts, but also to the industrious and provident nature of the Pocumtucks. Pride and insolence, however, later led them on to treachery, and the Mohawks in revenge had vanquished and very nearly exterminated them in the fall of 1664, so that Pocumtuck was completely deserted when the visitors from Dedham arrived.

At Pocumtuck they found an abundance of meadow land, hemmed in by protecting hills where a vast variety of game found cover, den, or other haunt within the timbered depths. There were otter runs along the brooks, and beaver dams in the marshes. Two rivers, one from the west and one from the north, uniting, emptied into the nearby Connecticut, the waters of which abounded at the time with shad on their annual run to the spawning grounds. To the men from Dedham it must have seemed that a veritable paradise for yeoman and trapper was spread out before them, and that their expectations were more than fully realized in this region bereft of occupants. Wherefore, they laid out the Dedham grant in the flat lands that stretched along either side of the Pocumtuck (Deerfield) River, between the Sunsick (Shelburne) hills on the west and the

range terminating in Wequamps (Sugarloaf) on the east; southward it extended to the Hadley limits, and northward to a line just above the union of the Pocumtuck and Pocommeagon (Green) rivers. The committee returned to Dedham and reported on May 22, 1665 that all the grant of 8000 acres had been laid out "in land as they Judg conveanient in quallitie and scituation, for the accommadacion of a plantation."

Having come into possession of this territory by authority of the General Court, the Dedham proprietors next took steps to obtain legal rights by purchase from the original native owners. Colonel William Pynchon of Springfield, who as a trader was well-known to the Indians of this section, was engaged to execute this transaction, a service he already had performed for Northampton and Hadley. Colonel Pynchon accordingly during the spring and summer of 1667 secured four deeds from representatives of the surviving Pocumtuck Indians conveying rights to various areas within which the limits of the new plantation was supposed to lie. Three of these deeds are still in existence, but descriptions of the places mentioned by their Indian names are so indefinite that identification of the individual tracts is quite impossible. Colonel Pynchon probably possessed only general first-hand knowledge of the territory, and was dependent for particular details upon the information furnished by the Indian grantors who came to Springfield to execute the deeds. Very likely neither party to the transaction had a clear idea concerning the exact boundaries of the land conveyed. The deeds consequently listed a general summary of land at and about Pocumtuck, sufficient to include the new plantation, and the bounds stipulated were not intended to coincide with the limits of the grant. It, therefore, is a matter of conjecture whether the tracts mentioned in the deeds extended far enough northward to cover the land now occupied by the Town of Gill*. There is no reason why the deeds necessarily included it, as the northern line of the 8,000-acre grant fell some miles below the southern extremities of the town.

After the business of complete possession was settled, the Dedham proprietors proceeded to sell their allotments at Pocumtuck to prospective settlers of satisfactory standing, and some of the more adventurous purchasers, impatient to become established on their new homesteads, moved their families to Pocumtuck before the settlement had been formally laid out. When a committee for this purpose visited Pocumtuck in the summer of 1670, they found at least two residents there already:

*Judge Thompson in his "History of Greenfield," page 17, hazards a guess as to which of the deeds conveyed the land now Greenfield and Gill. Anyone interested in further speculation can find copies of all the deeds, as well as complete details concerning the Dedham grant, in Sheldon's "History of Deerfield," Vol. I, Chapter I.

Samuel Hinsdale and Samson Frary. During the following two years the growth of the settlement was rapid, and by the spring of 1673 a sufficient number of families had located there to permit the inhabitants to petition for a township, with the following resultant action by the General Court on May 7, 1673:

“In ansr to the peticon of the inhabitants of Paucumptucke, Samuel Hinsdale, Samson Frary, &c, the Court judgeth it meete to allow the peticoners the liberty of a township, and doe therefore grant them such an addition of land to the eight thousand acres formerly granted there to Dedham, as that the whole be to the content of seven miles square,” (Mass. Records, Vol. LV, Part II, 558.)

The plantation at Pocumtuck accordingly became a township, and was given the name of Deerfield. The addition to make up the seven miles square of township was laid out in the adjacent land to the north by continuing the original western boundary line to the foot of the hills from which the Green River emerged, and extending eastward from that point to the Connecticut River, thus including all the rich meadow land along Green River, and all the land easterly, part of which eventually became the Town of Gill. The bounds of the addition apparently were not confirmed by the General Court until 1717, when the matter was formally concluded under the Court’s approval on November 19, 1717:

“That the Bounds of the Seven Miles Square granted to Deerfield, Shall be and Remain According to Platt now exhibited to this Great and General Court; Provided the line run from the north end of said tract to the Great River be an East Line.”

The General Court, by this provision, not only established the north bound of Deerfield township, but also definitely settled the location of the dividing line between Deerfield and the part of Northfield west of the Connecticut River, a matter on which the two towns previously had been unable to agree. The addition to Deerfield’s original 8,000 acres thus confirmed by the General Court covered the present townships of Greenfield and Gill, except such areas as have been annexed to either since its incorporation.

When the General Court made the seven-mile square additional grant to Pocumtuck in 1673, one of the restrictions was that “a farme of two hundred and fifty acres be laid out for the Country’s use.” A strip 18-1/2 rods in width accordingly was laid out by the surveyors across the northern part of the grant from the Connecticut River to the seven-mile line. This strip was known as “The Country Farms.”

Chapter 2

KING PHILIP'S WAR

The new settlement at Deerfield continued to increase in numbers, and by the spring of 1675 some thirty families had gathered there, seeking permanent homesteads where they could labor and prosper. The dark clouds of King Philip's war were gathering, however, all unsuspected by the settlers. The settlers for the most part were wholly unacquainted with the methods and the atrocities of Indian warfare, and were unconscious that their isolation was any cause for alarm. On the contrary, remoteness gave them an added feeling of security. Fields were plowed and crops were planted that spring, and none sensed the impending horror.

King Philip's War (so-called not because Philip personally led the forces, but because he was the mastermind that instigated the hostilities) was the clash inevitably bound to occur between the intruding colonists and the natives who were gradually being ousted from their choicest hunting and camping grounds.

Philip, with more intelligent comprehension of the situation than his fellows, foresaw that a continuation of the existing conditions would result in time in leaving the Indians, pushed aside by the ever-expanding area of settlements, with no possessions or privileges at all. The fact that the land had been bought from the original owners on terms entirely satisfactory to the grantors was in Philip's mind no more than a clever ruse on the part of the English to obtain their ends peaceably.

The proud Philip was stirred by a feverish resentment against the conditions that were forcing his people to the background under English predominance, and the goad that urged him to action was probably as much an envious desire for revenge as an heroic aspiration for the deliverance of his people. Philip was no warrior himself, but as a demagogue and agitator, he was expert in appealing to the ruthlessness of his people. He knew well that if he could incite them to regain their lost possessions from the settlers, the fury once started would gain momentum of its own accord. His part would be merely to foment the work of extirpation, and then to watch its progress.

The outbreak of the conflict came sooner than Philip had intended. The impatience and arrogant confidence of the younger warriors of his own tribe precipitated matters at Swansea on June 24, 1675. The sack of Brookfield followed within a few weeks; early in September Deerfield

and Northfield were assailed, and the scene of attack reached the Connecticut Valley. A second attack on Deerfield on Sunday September 12, quickly followed by the massacre at Bloody Brook on September 18, left the surviving settlers at Deerfield stunned and unable to protect themselves. The settlement was abandoned, and the inhabitants sought refuge in the valley towns below. Pocumtuck was again deserted and desolate.

Before the advent of winter, Springfield was burned, and Hatfield and Hadley had been attacked. Early in 1676 the Indians resumed hostilities at Northampton, Hatfield, and Hadley, but they met unexpected resistance and had little success. The settlers themselves were beginning to master the tactics of Indian warfare with a thoroughness that brought disappointment to their adversaries.

As warm weather advanced, the number of Indians about Pocumtuck was increased by the addition of large throngs from other tribes waiting at various points along the Connecticut River for the start of the annual fishing season. In the early days, before the construction of dams prevented free access, the upper reaches of the Connecticut provided some of the chief spawning grounds for salmon and shad. While the yearly run was in progress, the river was literally alive with fish racing to those spawning grounds. Immense quantities were netted or speared by the natives, and no spot was more advantageous for the purpose than the natural falls in the river here, called by the Indians "Peskeompskut," meaning the place "where the river was cleft by a rock." A crowd of natives annually collected at this favorite spot to feast upon the plentiful fish and to dry large stores for future use. Larger numbers than usual were here in the spring of 1676, as Philip is supposed to have planned to secure supplies enough from this source to ration his warriors when it became impossible to feed them by forage, and to have sent a considerable number of his men here for that purpose.

Conscious of their successes in the previous summer and fall, and confident that the settlers were at their mercy anyway, the Indians encamped here gave little thought to outside matters; they fished by day and feasted by night with a careless assumption of security. This condition of affairs was reported by two boys who escaped from their captors and reached Hatfield. Their story was confirmed by Thomas Reed, a soldier who had been made a prisoner, and who likewise escaped soon afterward and made his way to Hadley. These reports convinced the settlers that an opportunity had come to strike a crushing blow upon their foes by a surprise attack. Accordingly a force of about 145 men under Captain William Turner set out from Hatfield about sundown on May 18, 1676. In the early hours of the following morning they reached the crest of the slope west of Fall River. Leaving their horses under a small

guard, the soldiers descended into the hollow, forded the river just above the site of the Old Stone Mill, ascended the apron of land that spreads out west of the cascade, and reached the open knoll back of the site of the Stoughton farm. Here Captain Turner and his men awaited the arrival of dawn. When daybreak came, the outline of the camp below them became visible and they silently stole down among the unguarded wigwams. At the given signal of command, the blare of musketry roused the sleeping occupants, who believing their deadly enemy, the Mohawks, was upon them, dashed wildly to the river as the sole open way of escape, only to have their canoes drawn into the rapids and engulfed in the cataract. Few of those encamped here survived the onslaught, but other camps along the river soon took up the defense, and Captain Turner and his men encountered severe casualties on the way back. Details of this disastrous return in which Captain Turner lost his life are given in Chapter 28. It is sufficient here to say merely that the prime object of the expedition was accomplished. The local power of the Pocumtuck Indians over this particular section was completely destroyed, and when the aftermath of King Philip's War was finally ended, the Indians were a menace to the settlers here only under the later leadership of the French.

In time the falls at Peskeompskut became known as "Turner's Falls," in memory of Captain Turner, and the engagement here was called "The Falls Fight."

Tradition handed down from the early settlers claims that King Philip camped for awhile near the border of Gill, on the hill above Bennett's meadow in West Northfield, when he was a fugitive with a price upon his head. To this day, the place is known as "King Philip's Hill," and at one time plainly bore evidence that it had been the site of an Indian camp.

Among the soldiers in the Falls Fight under Captain Turner were William Arms, Reverend Hope Atherton, Samuel Field, John Munn, and William Scott, direct ancestors of the families of the same names long intimately connected with the affairs of the Town of Gill.

"I went out Volenteare against ingens the 17th of May, 1676 and we ingaged batel the 19th of May in the moaning before sunrise and made great spoil upon the enemy and came off the same day with the Los of 37 men and the Captin Turner, and came home the 20th of May." (Entry in the account book of Japhat Chapin, one of Turner's men, and grandfather of Capt. Timothy Childs, one of the earliest settlers in what is now the Town of Gill.)

Chapter 3

SETTLEMENT OF GREENFIELD

King Philip's War ended in the late summer of 1677, but the return of settlers to Deerfield was delayed for some five years because of uncertainty concerning the war's effect upon the Indian tribes to the west and north. Although a few of the old settlers came back earlier, no attempt at formal resettlement was probably made before the year 1682. What may be termed the permanent settlement of Deerfield dates from that time, for despite the fact that during the subsequent French and Indian Wars there were attacks upon the settlement, in one of which on February 29, 1704, the village was nearly wiped out of existence, Deerfield was never again completely abandoned.

The return of many of Deerfield's former inhabitants in 1682 soon attracted other settlers who purchased land from the owners, or acquired new homesteads, and by 1686 the increase in settlers was so much above the original number that allotment of land outside of Deerfield village proper was required for their accommodation. One of the places of allotment was along Green River, and a settlement was started on a site now the main street of Greenfield. Just at that time, however, William of Orange ascended the English throne, and England became involved in a war with France. Immediately the French and English colonies began to prey upon each other, and the American colonists were harried by Indian incursions under the leadership of the Canadian French. Settlement at Green River was halted, and nothing further was attempted until the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697 ended the war some ten years later. Little progress, however, was made with the prospective settlement along Green River, for peace between the two countries lasted only a short time. Within five years the English were again waging war upon the French, and until the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, the colonists were subjected to another decade of attacks by the combined French and Indians that made isolated settlements uninhabitable, and dealt death and destruction even to some of the larger villages supposed to be securely fortified.

When peaceful conditions prevailed again, the courage and hopes of the settlers revived, and renewed activity at the Green River settlement sprang up. Some of the settlers undoubtedly built houses, but war was still in the air, and the project had little chance to expand. Although

there might be peace in Europe between the English and the French, the Jesuit missionaries in America had not made peace with their English adversaries, and a war, known as Father Rasle's War, finally resulted, and ambush and slaughter were again brought to this region. Memories of the atrocities perpetrated by the Indians at the instigation of the French in the previous wars sent the settlers in the outlying lands hurrying back to the fortified villages lower down the valley. For the third time, settlement at Green River was abandoned.

During the following decade the proprietors took action occasionally for the future development of the Green River settlement, but actual possession was not revived again until the end of Father Rasle's War, when permanent settlement was finally begun. No further definite allotment of land took place until the year 1727, when the farm land in Greenfield meadows and other areas west of Green River was divided. Nine years later the proprietors at a meeting in March 1736 voted to apportion the land in whole or in part that lay east of Green River, and it was then that the first allotments of land were made in what is now the Town of Gill.

It must be remembered in this connection, that the undivided land, although lying within the township of Deerfield, was not the property of the town, but was still owned by a body of proprietors to whom the General Court had made the original grant, and their heirs and assigns, as some of the original proprietors had either died or sold out. In 1736 the body of proprietors was represented by the following fifty-five shareholders who participated in the allotments:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Allen, Edward | 17. Childs, Timothy |
| 2. Allen, Samuel | 18. Corse, John |
| 3. Amsden, John | 19. Dickinson, Samuel |
| 4. Arms, Daniel | 20. Field, Samuel |
| 5. Arms, John | 21. Frary, Heirs of Nathaniel |
| 6. Arms, William | 22. French, Thomas |
| 7. Atherton, Joseph | 23. Hawks, Eleazer |
| 8. Bardwell, Samuel | 24. Hawks, John |
| 9. Bardwell, Thomas | 25. Hawks, Nathaniel |
| 10. Barnard, Samuel, Esq. | 26. Hinsdale, Heirs of Mehuman |
| 11. Beaman, Hannah | 27. Hoit, Heirs of David |
| 12. Belding, Daniel | 28. Hoit, Jonathan |
| 13. Belding, Samuel | 29. Mitchell, Michael |
| 14. Catlin, John | 30. Munn, Benjamin |
| 15. Catlin, John, 2nd | 31. Nims, Ebenezer |
| 16. Childs, Samuel | 32. Nims, John |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 33. Severance, Joseph | 45. Wells, Heirs of Jonathan |
| 34. Sheldon, Charles | 46. Wells, Joshua |
| 35. Sheldon, Ebenezer | 47. Wells, Mary |
| 36. Sheldon, John | 48. Wells, Thomas, Esq. |
| 37. Smead, Ebenezer | 49. Wells, Thomas, 2nd |
| 38. Smead, Samuel | 50. Williams, Elijah |
| 39. Smead, Sarah | 51. Williams, Sarah |
| 40. Stebbins, John | 52. Williams, Stephen |
| 41. Stebbins, Samuel | 53. Williams, Warham |
| 42. Taylor, Heirs of Samuel | 54. Williams, Heirs of Zebediah |
| 43. Wells, Ebenezer | 55. Wright, Judah |
| 44. Wells, Jonathan, Esq. | |

The holdings of these proprietors varied considerably, so that a division of ninety-three allotments was necessary to take care of their proportionate ratings, a full allotment being 160 acres. Ordinarily when lots were cast for undivided land, he who drew No. 1 had first choice as to the location of his allotment, and so on down the list. It was evident, however, in this particular draft of so many allotments, that the person with choice No. 1 had a decided advantage over the one with choice No. 93. In order to offset this unfair condition, the distribution in 1736 was divided into two divisions, and the allotments were halved. The second division gave first choice to No. 93 of the first division and worked backward correspondingly so that last choice in the second division came to the one who had had first choice in the first division, a full allotment in either division being 80 acres.

The list of allotments for the two divisions follows, from which it may be seen that the heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale, who drew 1,644 acres of land, were the largest shareholders. Samuel Barnard was next with 870 acres.

1st Div. No.	2nd Div. No.		Acres
1	93	Jonathan Wells, Esq.	80
2	92	Judah Wright	24
3	91	Mehuman Hinsdale	80
4	90	Samuel Barnard, Esq.	80
5	89	Sarah Williams	24
6	88	Daniel Belding	69
7	87	John Catlin	71
8	86	John Nims	41
9	85	Thomas Wells, 2nd	79
10	84	Benjamin Munn	40
11	83	William Arms	14
12	82	Joseph Atherton	44

1st Div. No.	2nd Div. No.		Acres
13	81	John Sheldon	80
14	80	Eleazer Hawks	75
15	79	Warham Williams	30
16	78	Mehuman Hinsdale	80
17	77	Daniel Arms	80
18	76	Joseph Severance	20
19	75	Thomas Wells, Esq.	80
20	74	Samuel Belding	45
21	73	Ebenezer Wells	76
22	72	Heirs of Nathaniel Frary	80
23	71	Ebenezer Sheldon	72
24	70	John Nims	80
25	69	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
26	68	Thomas Wells, 2nd	80
27	67	John Stebbins	80
28	66	Charles Sheldon	49
29	65	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
30	64	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
31	63	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
32	62	Ebenezer Nims	24
33	61	Samuel Field	24
34	60	Thomas French	24
35	59	Samuel Dickinson	19
36	58	Heirs of Samuel Taylor	80
37	57	Mary Wells	56
38	56	Benjamin Munn	80
39	55	Samuel Barnard, Esq.	80
40	54	Timothy Childs	26
41	53	Samuel Allen	46
42	52	William Arms	80
43	51	John Stebbins	25
44	50	John Amsden	24
45	49	Daniel Arms	27
46	48	Michael Mitchell	16
47	47	Stephen Williams	17
48	46	Daniel Arms	80
49	45	Samuel Stebbins	27
50	44	John Stebbins	50
51	43	Nathaniel Hawks	75
52	42	Ebenezer Smead	80
53	41	Sarah Smead	16
54	40	Ebenezer Smead	40
55	39	Heirs of David Hoit	55
56	38	Heirs of Jonathan Wells	80
57	37	Thomas Wells, 2nd	80
58	36	Thomas Wells, Esq.	80
59	35	John Arms	50
60	34	Thomas Wells, Esq.	53

1st Div.	2nd Div.		Acres
No.	No.		
61	33	Samuel Dickinson	80
62	32	John Hawks	75
63	31	Jonathan Hoit	30
64	30	Samuel Barnard, Esq.	35
65	29	Thomas French	80
66	28	Thomas Wells, Esq.	80
67	27	Samuel Bardwell	80
68	26	Elijah Williams	48
69	25	Thomas Bardwell	21
70	24	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
71	23	Samuel Smead	8
72	22	Samuel Barnard, Esq.	80
73	21	Heirs of Samuel Taylor	40
74	20	Jonathan Hoit	80
75	19	Timothy Childs	80
76	18	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
77	17	John Catlin, 2nd	80
78	16	Samuel Childs	69
79	15	Thomas Wells, Esq.	80
80	14	Samuel Barnard	80
81	13	Hannah Beaman	48
82	12	Samuel Bardwell	31
83	11	Heirs of Zebediah Williams	80
84	10	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
85	9	Joseph Severance	80
86	8	John Arms	80
87	7	Jonathan Wells, Esq.	63
88	6	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	80
89	5	Ebenezer Smead	80
90	4	Joshua Wells	16
91	3	Edward Allen	68
92	2	Heirs of Mehuman Hinsdale	22
93	1	James Corse	17

When surveys were being made in 1736 to lay out the lots drawn in "the Division East of Green River and North of Cheapside," it was discovered that one Joseph Brooks had come over from Northfield and taken possession of a tract of land on the Connecticut River where the Northfield Farms Ferry was later located. Steps were immediately taken by the proprietors to dispossess our first settler of his illegal tenure, and it was voted "that Mr. Elijah Williams be hereby appointed and chose to go and in the name of the propriety to warn and forbid Joseph Brooks of Northfield entering upon or anyways hereafter improving a certain tract or parcel of land belonging to this propriety, inclosed by him and heretofore improved, said land lieth between Millers Falls & ye mouth of Woodward's Brook and upon Connecticut River." It took some three

years, however, for the proprietors to enforce their writ of ejection against the trespasser, a review of the case by the Superior Court of Judicature in Springfield being ordered before the eviction was finally accomplished.

If tradition is to be accepted, there is some doubt whether it was really eviction that finally accomplished Mr. Brooks's removal, or whether it was chance calamity that forced the withdrawal. According to the tale, Brooks was one day at work in his field when he saw that he was being watched by an Indian who stood on a rock at a considerable distance away on the side of the mountain above his clearing. The Indian, on finding that he was discovered, let out several vigorous war whoops, and Brooks, with the intention of scaring the Indian, grabbed up his musket and discharged it, judging the distance too great for any harm. To Brooks's utter consternation, the shot toppled the Indian from his rocky foothold with fatal effect, and Brooks, fearing retaliation if other Indians were also present, immediately abandoned his improvements and fled to Northfield. That his alarm was not ill-founded was later established when it was found that his shelters had been burned, and his growing crops had all been destroyed. Furthermore, the tradition appears to have some substantiation from the fact that many years afterward, the bones of an Indian were found buried in a natural mound close to the spot where the Indian is supposed to have fallen.

Some of the owners of the tracts in the new allotment of land east of Fall River began to improve their acres at an early date, and if they did not occupy the premises themselves, sent husbandmen or herdsman to do so. In 1742 when Samuel Bardwell sold his 80-acre Lot No. 67 "near the northeast corner of Deerfield" to John Munn, the deed stated that "the dwelling house thereon" was included in the conveyance. Some one had been living on this tract of land close to the West Northfield line earlier than the year 1742. By this purchase, John Munn became the first permanent settler on land covered by the original incorporation of the Town of Gill. The Severance family had already been established for over twenty years on Grass Hill just over the Northfield line, and the proximity of these neighbors was most likely the reason why the desirable farm land in this vicinity was early occupied by settlers. Since the Grass Hill section of Northfield was immediately annexed to the Town of Gill after its incorporation, Ebenezer Severance, who settled there about 1718, was the earliest settler on land that makes up the present township of Gill, and was the only person who ever lived within the present confines of the town to fall prey to the Indians on his own property. The Munn and Severance farms soon became adjoining homesteads through additional purchases of land by both parties.

In 1743 John Sheldon sold George Howland of Barnstable two parcels of land "lying at a place called the nook of the falls," and the parcel lying between land on the one side owned by Samuel Childs and land on the other side owned by Timothy Childs, brother of Samuel, was the tract upon which Mr. Howland settled. He moved his family here in the following year, and became the first permanent settler in the section of the town bordering on the "Great Falls" in the Connecticut River.

Timothy Childs, Jr., soon after his marriage in 1744, settled on land owned by his father adjoining the Howland property. Both the Childs and the Howland families came from Barnstable, and bore some relationship to each other through marriages into the Crocker family. In 1750 Timothy Childs, Sr., deeded the property to his son, on condition that Timothy, Jr., ". . . . deliver 20 bushels of wheat annually during my life." The Childs property covered the part of the present Stoughton farm between the road to Gill and the Barton property, the latter being part of the original Howland purchase.

The district of Greenfield, including what is now Gill, was set off from Deerfield in 1753. During the following decade tenant farmers began to occupy many of the lots, and not a few of those tenants became owners of the land under their improvement. Richard Cary from Deerfield was here at an early date, and in 1761 bought 160 acres south of the Northfield town line. David Wrisley, a native of Glastonbury, Conn., as a tenant farmer located on land owned by the Wells family just north of the present Village of Gill. He bought the farm in 1762, and he and his four sons soon became owners of all the land along Woodward's Brook in that immediate neighborhood. In 1763, Samuel Wrisley, brother of David, came here from Hartford, Conn., and purchased land adjoining the property of Richard Cary. Mr. Wrisley was accompanied by Samuel Stoughton, his former apprentice, and in the following year they jointly purchased the Dickinson tracts along the Connecticut River next to the Munn farm.

Another permanent settler during this period was Moses Bascom of Greenfield who in 1763 purchased 80 acres on the east side of Fall River, and in that year built the homestead so long a familiar landmark in West Gill. As early, or earlier than this, Jonathan Sprague located on land owned by his uncle, Ebenezer Sprague, on the heights overlooking the "Straits." When Jonathan Sprague bought the property in 1765, a "house, barn and orchard" were included in the sale. James Day, whose wife was Jonathan's granddaughter, later became the owner, and the farm on Day's Hill was occupied until about 1851 when the family removed to Greenfield. The old house, built of hand-hewn timbers pegged together, was torn down by Peleg Adams, who subsequently became

possessor of the farm, and the lumber was used by him in the construction of a house in Greenfield, since destroyed by fire. The land on Day's Hill is still owned by Mr. Adams's heirs.

Samuel Childs in 1754 sold Reverend Jonathan Ashley the land on the east side of the Howland property, in later years known as the "Bissell farm," and subsequently as the "Roswell Field farm." The heirs of the Reverend Jonathan sold the lots to Bela Orcutt in 1790, and no records indicate whether the land was tenanted during the interim.

Asahel Webster from Glastonbury, Conn., bought land in 1765 at the mouth of Woodward's Brook. In the same year, Jeremiah Allen and his sons from Rockingham, Vt., settled on several tracts along the present West Gill highway.

Benjamin Hosley, one of the original petitioners for the Town of Shelburne, where he lived for a time, removed to this town in 1769, and located on land of which the present Kendrow farm is a large part. In 1771 David Gaines from Eastbury, Conn., took up land adjacent to the holding of the Wrisleys, who were his relatives by marriage.

George Loveland, Sr., another settler from Glastonbury, Conn., lived on Lot No. 24 in the 2nd Division for some years before he purchased the land from Samuel Hinsdale in 1777, the deed of conveyance describing the tract as "the land on which the aforesaid George Loveland now dwells."

Daniel Brooks settled at an early date on the same piece of land from which his father, Joseph Brooks, had been evicted when the lots were laid out in 1736, although he did not acquire title to the property from Samuel Barnard, to whom the land had been allotted, until 1799.

The foregoing gives as complete a list as possible of the families located here previous to the Revolutionary War. A number of these settlers lived on the lots of their choice for many years before the final payment was made, and the deed of transfer concluded.

Chapter 4

GILL TOWNSHIP

INCORPORATION

In 1775 there were about fifty families living in Greenfield east of Fall River. The following taxpayers listed for that year in Greenfield are readily identified as inhabitants of Greenfield's "northeast."

Allen, Ithamar	Loveland, George
Allen, Jeremiah	Munn, John
Allen, Noah	Munn, John, Jr.
Brooks, Daniel	Munn, Noah
Bascom, Moses	Nichols, Nathaniel
Childs, Eliphaz	Sprague, Jonathan
Childs, Jonathan	Stoughton, Samuel
Childs, Timothy	Webster, Asahel
Gains, David	Wrisley, Asahel
Gains, David, Jr.	Wrisley, David
Hosley, Benjamin	Wrisley, David, Jr.
Hosley, Benjamin, Jr.	Wrisley, Eleazer
Howland, George	Wrisley, Elijah
Howland, John	Wrisley, Samuel
Howland, Seth	

During the years just before the close of the Revolutionary War there was a renewed movement of migration from the crowded sections along the coast of New England to the more sparsely settled areas of northwestern Massachusetts, to the southern part of Vermont then in disputed possession of both New York and New Hampshire, and to the northern and western counties of New York. The reasons responsible for this movement were agricultural to a large extent, and the valuable farm land along the Connecticut River was not overlooked. Many were drawn to this locality as a consequence, and the families resident in the part of Greenfield east of Fall River rapidly increased in number. The United States census for the year 1790 named only that person who was the head of each family, but even so the census shows how considerable was the increase in population in Greenfield's northeast during the intervening years:

Allen, Apollos	Allen, Ithamar	Allen, Noah
Allen, Eliphaz	Allen, John	Ballard, David

Ballard, Jeremiah	Hathaway, Samuel	Roberts, Ebenezer
Ballard, Philip	Hosley, Benjamin	Slate, Ebenezer
Bascom, Moses	Hosley, Benjamin, Jr.	Smalley, William
Bascom, Moses, Jr.	Howland, George	Sprague, Jonathan
Bates, Jacob	Howland, John	Squires, David
Bates, John	Howland, Seth	Stebbins, Elisha
Beebe, Roswell	Hutchinson, Aaron	Scott, Moses
Bissell, Jabez	Hutchinson, Jesse	Simons, Joseph
Bissell, William	Janes, Samuel	Stanhope, Asahel
Brooks, Daniel	Johnson, Isaac	Stanhope, Jonas
Brooks, Levi	Kenney, Reuben	Stevens, John
Brown, David	Lambkin, Benjamin	Stoughton, Samuel
Carrier, Kneeland	Lee, Joseph	Thornton, John
Cary, Seth	Loveland, Frederick	Usher, John
Cobb, James	Loveland, George	Walker, William
Combs, Joshua	Loveland, George, Jr.	Warner, Samuel
Darby, Samuel	Lyon, Caleb	Wellman, Adam
Darling, Jedediah	Lyon, John	Wetherby, Daniel
Darling, John	Lyon, Samuel	Webster, Asahel
Earl, John	Morley, John	Webster, Giles
Fisher, Sally	Murdock, Samuel	Wetmore, Beriah
Foote, Obed	Munn, John	Wetmore, Nathan
French, John	Munn, Noah	Wrisley, Asahel
French, John, Jr.	Munn, Seth	Wrisley, David
Gains, David	Nichols, Nathaniel	Wrisley, Eleazer
Goodrich, George	Parkhurst, Reuben	Wrisley, Elijah
Guellow, Francis	Putnam, Andrew	Wrisley, Joseph
Hamilton, Eber	Rice, Benjamin	Wright, Thaddeus
Hamilton, Eli	Rice, Enos	

The growing settlement east of Fall River was not viewed with complete satisfaction, however, either by the Town of Greenfield or by the settlers themselves. New complications and burdens were increasing within the township, and the necessity of higher tax rates was becoming apparent. Dissatisfaction over the benefits allotted them from the town appropriations increased among the settlers, who considered themselves objectionably far from the town center. The Village of Bernardston or the Village of Northfield was much nearer to many of them than the Village of Greenfield. In April 1788 the Town of Greenfield voted to release Seth Cary and Elisha Stebbins from the ministerial tax in Greenfield because they attended church in Northfield, and paid assessments to that town. It was not long before both sides were advocating the advisability of separate townships.

The first documentary evidence appears in the records of a meeting held December 3, 1781, when the Town of Greenfield voted "to set off the people on the East side of Fall river as a town to come to the Center of the river." From that date on the subject received intermittent attention, and many votes were passed contingent upon the creation of the new township. In October 1788 the matter seems to have been reviewed with some prospect of accomplishment, as Greenfield passed the more detailed vote that "that part of the Town East of the Center of Fall river be set off as a Town, and that They pay there proportion of all Town and State Taxes that are or may be on the Town before they git incorporated in to a Town, and all State taxes that may hereafter be assest on the Town before a New Valuation be taken."

However, four and a half years elapsed before the matter actually culminated, when Greenfield on May 7, 1793 chose a committee composed of Lieutenant Samual Stoughton, Joseph Simons, David Wrisley, David Smead, and Ebenezer Arms to report some measure for setting off the northeast part of the town into a separate district, and the committee made the following report:

"That the North East part of the Town in the opinion of the committee is entitled to such proportion of the publick property in said Town as that part of the town was rated in the town tax for the (year) 1792, and that they Hold the same proportion in all Debts and credits of said town as shall be subsisting at the time of their incorporation.

"That the middle of fall river so called be the dividing line between the Town of Greenfield and the proposed District and that the bridges on said stream be maintained in equal halves.

"If any dispute shall arise concerning the value of the meeting-house in said town the same shall be appraised by an impartial Committee hereafter to be agreed upon by the parties.

"That the proposed District bear a like proportion of the last valuation made in the past year.

"That the said proposed District shall maintain all such persons as have ever been inhabitants of said District and shall hereafter become chargeable as poor persons."

The following formal petition for separation from the Town of Greenfield, preserved in the Archives Division, Department of the Secretary of State, was then drawn up and duly presented:

"To The Hon^{ble} The Senate & House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be convened at Boston on the last Wednesday of May 1793

Moses Bascom & others most Humbly Shew That when the

Town of Greenfield was incorporated the situation and circumstances of its Inhabitants made it eligible to place the Meeting-House a considerable distance south of the center of the Town, as the south part was at that time far the most settled. That a great increase of population in the north east part has since taken place. That a large number of Inhabitants have long been deprived of the priviledges of attending public worship and other priviledges incident to Towns in general on account of their local situation, living from Three to Eight Miles from s^d Meeting House. That the Town lies in such form that one center will not be convenient for the Inhabitants of the south-west & North-east parts of the Town as will appear by plan. That such is now the increase of population in the north-east part of Town as renders it necessary in the opinion of your Petitioners that the Town be divided by a line beginning in the center of Fall River (so called) on the line between Bernardstown and Greenfield and running southerly in the center of s^d River to its mouth, and that that part east of s^d River be incorporated into a District.

Therefore at a meeting of the Inhabitants east of s^d River it was agreed to apply to the Town at their meeting to be held on Tuesday the seventh day of May 1793—application being legally made to the Town at s^d meeting. The Town then voted that that part lying east of the center of s^d River have leave to be incorporated into a District, & likewise that they be entitled to their proportion of all the public property in the Town in proportion as they stand on the list of Assessment for the year 1792. And likewise that the s^d proposed District shall maintain all such persons as have been inhabitants of s^d District and shall hereafter become chargeable as poor persons.

We therefore humbly solicit your Honours attention to the situation and interest of your Petitioners and pray that a Division of s^d Town may be affected by a line running as above described and that part East of the center of s^d river be Incorporated into a District with all the power and privelege usually allowed to Districts in this Commonwealth, as we in duty bound shall ever pray."

Greenfield June y^e 1st 1793.

William Walker
Elijah Wrisley
Francis Guellow

David Risle Junr.
Jonathan Risle
Charles Richards

Benj^m Hosly
David Risle
Amaziah Roberts

William Smalley	Eleazer Risle
John Howland	Noah Munn
Seth Howland	Eben ^{zr} Slate
Joshua Combs	Seth Munn
Bela Orcutt	David Gains
Jonathan Sprague	Jehiel Gains
Philip Ballard	Jonathan J. Hosly
David Ballard	Isaiah Hosly
David Squires	Elisha Stebbins
Daniel Wright	Levi Brooks
George Gains	Samuel Stoughton
Benj ^m Rice	Asahel Risley
Moses Richards	George Darling
Issac Johnson	Noah Allen
Reuben Kenney	Samuel Darby
Moses Ballard	Moses Scott
John Ewers	Jesse Hutchinson
Demick Morley	Ith ^{mr} Allen
John Morley	John Darling
Jacob Bates	Joseph Simons
Ichabod Potter	Perrin Richards
John Allen	Enos Rice
Obed Foot	Bernice Foot
Sam ^l Foot	Joseph Wrisley
Daniel Brooks	George Goodrich
Daniel Brooks Junr.	
Eleazer Darby	

The petition was read before the House of Representatives and approved by that body on June 6, 1793, and the action was concurred by the Senate on the same day. The new township was to be named Gill, in honor of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth at that time, the Honorable Moses Gill, and the following Act of Incorporation gave the new town legal status:

ACTS, 1793 — CHAPTER 22.

An Act to Incorporate the East Part of Greenfield in the County of Hampshire Into a Town by the Name of Gill.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the Authority of the same that all the East part of the Town of Greenfield in the County of Hamp-

shire hereafter described shall be sett off & incorporated into a Town by the name of Gill, beginning at the centre of Fall River so called where it empties into Connecticut River running on said Connecticut River with its angles, three thousand eight hundred & fifteen rods to a Black Oak Tree, on Northfield line from thence westerly on Northfield and Bernardston line to the centre of the above mentioned Fall River, from thence southerly down the centre of said River to the first mentioned bounds with all the Inhabitants thereon living be and hereby are incorporated into a separate Town by the name of Gill — with all the powers, privileges and immunities that Towns within this Commonwealth do or may enjoy.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the Inhabitants of the said Town of Gill shall be subject to, and pay all rates and taxes heretofore assessed upon them while they belonged to the Town of Greenfield in the same manner, as though this Act had not been passed; and shall be subject to pay their part of all debts due from said Town of Greenfield in the same proportion as the public taxes were paid in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety two, and also shall receive according to the same rule of proportion their part of all public lands, and of all other public property whatsoever belonging to the said Town of Greenfield at the time of passing this Act.

And be it further enacted that the said Town of Gill shall be holden to maintain all persons belonging within the bounds thereof who now are or shall hereafter become chargeable and provided any person or persons who have removed from said Town of Greenfield shall hereafter be returned as the poor of said Town then & in such case the said Town of Gill shall be holden to take and support as their poor, all those who immediately before such removal were the Inhabitants of that part of Greenfield which is now Gill.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that until the said Town of Gill shall have a sufficient number of rateable Polls to entitle them to a Representative, they shall assemble and meet with the Town of Greenfield for the purpose of choosing a Representative to serve in the General Court of this Commonwealth — The said Meeting to be holden in the towns of Greenfield & Gill alternately.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that David Smead Esqr. be and hereby is authorized and empowered to issue his warrant to some principal Inhabitant of the said Town of Gill requiring him to notify and warn said Inhabitants to meet at some convenient time and place in said Town, to choose all such Officers,

as other Towns are required by Law to choose in the Month of March or April annually.

Approved September 28, 1793

Although Gill became legally an incorporated township on September 28, 1793, it had no corporate privileges until December 17, 1793, when the Act of Incorporation was publicly read to the inhabitants of the new town. The ceremonies on that day were solemnized by an appropriate sermon by the Reverend Roger Newton, the Greenfield minister.

The first town meeting was held on the following day with Moses Bascom as the moderator, and the following town officers were elected: Moses Bascom, Jr., Town Clerk and Treasurer; Moses Bascom, William Smalley, and Noah Munn, Selectmen and Assessors; David Squires, Constable.

Gill had finally become an organized township.

As soon as the act of incorporation of the Town of Gill had been passed, agitation began among those dwelling in the so-called "Grass Hill" section of Northfield west of the Connecticut River to be set off from Northfield and annexed to Gill. In that same year, 1793, a petition to this effect was sent to the General Court, signed by Ebenezer Field, Jr., Josiah Parmenter, Benj. Carter, Jona. Childs, Sereno Field, Rodolphus W. Field, Nathan Holton, Elisha Munn, and Abner Severance. In 1794 the Town of Northfield voted to permit the transfer, and on February 28, 1795 an Act was passed granting the prayer of the petitioners, and the section now known as "Mount Hermon" was formally annexed to the Town of Gill.

THE HONORABLE MOSES GILL

Moses Gill, for whom the Town of Gill is named, was a native of Charlestown, the son of John and Elizabeth (Abbott) Gill, and the grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Gill who is supposed to have been born in Dover, England, and who married Relief Dowse in Charlestown on May 26, 1696.

At the time of the Revolution, Moses Gill was appointed to the Council of Massachusetts, quite as much because of his own personal qualifications and ability as from the fact that he was a brother of John Gill, who in 1755 with Benjamin Edes began the publication of the "Boston Gazette and Country Journal," which subsequently became such an ardent champion of the colonial radicals that the British called the publishers "those trumpets of sedition, Edes and Gill." Their office was the gathering place from which the participants in the Boston Tea Party set forth.



Courtesy Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design; Jesse Metcalf Fund

The Honorable Moses Gill after whom town is named.

When the new Constitution of Massachusetts was formed in 1780, Mr. Gill continued as a member of the Executive Council. He was made Lieutenant Governor in 1794 and was still holding that office when Governor Increase Sumner died in 1799. Lieutenant Governor Gill then be-

came acting governor, a capacity in which he officiated until his own death in the following year. His death left Massachusetts without either a Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the only instance of this condition in the history of the Commonwealth.

Moses Gill was twice married. He married first on March 27, 1757 Sarah, born July 16, 1723, daughter of the Reverend Thomas Prince, pastor of the Old South Church in Boston. She died in 1769, and on August 13, 1773 he took a second wife, Rebecca, born December 7, 1727, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Morecock) Boylston. He adopted his nephew and namesake, Moses, son of John and Ann (Kneeland) Gill. His only child, a daughter by his first wife, died in early womanhood.

The following obituary appeared in the June 7, 1800 issue of the "Greenfield Gazette."

"Died on Tuesday the 20th May, His Honor Moses Gill, Esq., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"When men, who have been placed by their country in stations of honor and usefulness, are removed from this stage of mortality the public ear listens for a general description of their progress through life.

"Mr. Gill was born at Charlestown on the 18th day of January in the year 1734. He was bred to the business of a merchant, and early in life went into that line in Boston. From his childhood he was noticed for the morality and integrity of his manners and conduct, and much esteemed for his indefatigable industry. Wealth, which generally speaking, is a constant attendant upon sobriety, prudence and industry, rewarded, in an ample and plentiful manner, the perseverance of Mr. Gill. In his youth he was married to the amiable and accomplished Miss Prince, the daughter and only child of the Rev. Mr. Prince of Boston; in whose right he held, while she lived, and afterwards in his own, a large landed estate in the county of Worcester. Agriculture attended him as his constant friend, and his virtues and exertions made the wilderness to blossom like the rose.

"After the decease of his first consort, he was married to Miss Boylston, who died two years since.

"In the year 1775, he was elected into the council under the charter of 1692, by which fifteen councillors were to act as Governor. This was done in pursuance to the recommendation of the American Congress. Under this authority, troops were raised, ships provided, magistrates and judges appointed and commissions issued to defend the country. Mr. Gill continued in the council under

this form of government, elected annually by the General Court, until the new constitution was formed in 1780. From that time to the year 1795, he was continued one of the Executive Council. In that year, he was elected Lieut. Governor, and continued by annual elections, from that time, in the same office."

1801 TAX LIST

The only early Gill tax list that has been preserved is a tax list for the year 1801. A tax of 10-1/2 cents on the dollar was levied on the appraised value of real and personal property, and a poll tax of \$1.43 was assessed. Only three men in the town owned real estate appraised in excess of \$100. The ten largest taxpayers were:

1. Daniel Brooks	\$18.89	6. David Squires	\$12.48
2. Ebenezer Field	18.76	7. Elijah Wrisley	12.04
3. Eliphaz Alexander	16.22	8. Samuel Stoughton	11.74
4. Jonathan Hosley	13.65	9. Isaiah Hosley	11.52
5. David Wrisley	13.56	10. Abner Severance	11.23

The above taxes do not include the poll tax, but are the taxes for real and personal property alone. A very interesting comparison for the taxes paid today though the ones set forth here were probably as burdensome in that day as the ones the taxpayer has to meet at the present time, nor would many taxpayers of this day be willing to exchange and receive the few benefits that the 1801 tax provided.

The tax warrant was as follows:

This Bill contains six hundred and 39 Dollars & 9 cents made at the rate of ten & 1/2 cents on each Dollar of estate & one Dollar and 43 cents on each poll.

Febrewary 13, 1801

Five dollars & fifty seven cents after added in consequence of highway Money.

To Majr Moses Bascom Town Treasurer: this may certify that we have assessed the inhabitants of the Town of Gill in a town tax containing six hundred and thirty nine dollars and nine cents and committed Lists therof to Mr. Moses Bascom Constable of the Town of Gill with direction to pay in the same to yourself or your successor by the first day of May next ensuing the date hereof.

Gill Febrewary 13, 1801

Noah Munn	}	Assessors
Gilbert Stacy		of
Reuben Shattuck		Gill

GILL TOWNSHIP

	No. Polls		Real Estate	Personal Estate	High- way	Sum Total
Alexander, Eliphaz	1	\$1.43	\$100.14	\$14.58	\$ 2.75	\$16.22
Allen, John	1	1.43				1.43
Allen, John Junr.	1	1.43				1.43
Bascom, Moses	1	1.43	56.00	19.56		8.36
Bascom, Moses Jr.	1	1.43	56.00	9.78		8.36
Ballard, Philip	1	1.43	39.06	8.94		6.47
Ballard, Jeremiah	1	1.43	56.04	14.88		8.88
Ballard, Moses	1	1.43	30.90	6.12	.33	5.64
Brooks, Daniel	1	1.43	124.56	20.28	.63	18.89
Clark, Timothy	1	1.43				1.43
Childs, Jonathan	1	1.43				1.43
Combs, Joshua Jr.	1	1.43	3.18	3.00		2.06
Combs, Seth	1	1.43	12.00	1.56		1.84
Carrier, B. Kneeland	1	1.43				1.43
Corey, Francis			8.28			.87
Carter, Benjamin	2	2.86	15.84	0.72		4.59
Darby, Eleazer	1	1.43	43.15	.90		3.11
Darling, Jedediah			38.46	5.60		2.31
Darling, John	1	.71	11.00	5.16		1.56
Ewers, John	1	1.43	33.12	6.36		5.58
Ewers, Henry	2	2.86	51.66	8.46		9.17
Ewers, Rufus	1	1.43				1.43
Ewers, James	1	1.43	23.00	3.00		4.16
Field, Ebenezer	2	2.86	119.94	31.74		18.76
Field, Rodolphus	1	1.43	44.58	11.82		7.35
Field, E. Sereno	1	1.43	23.50	7.20		4.64
Gains, David			23.00	6.60		3.09
Gains, Richard	1	1.43		.90		1.52
Gains, George	1	1.43	12.30	.90		2.80
Guillow, Francis	2	2.86	20.70	5.04		5.55
Gains, Jehiel	1	1.43	20.40	8.34		4.43
Guillow, Maturin	1	1.43				1.43
Guillow, Rufus	1	1.43				1.43
Green, Benjamin	2	2.86	46.12	10.80		8.84
Goodrich, George	1	1.43	69.86	20.70		10.93
Goodale, Job	1	1.43	40.26	3.90	\$ 1.00	7.07
Gould, James	1	1.43	2.22	27.00		4.49
Howland, Shove	1	1.43	67.44	16.56		10.24
Howland, John	1	1.43	24.51	6.06		4.63
Howland, Salmon	1	1.43	24.51	6.06		4.63
Howland, George	1	1.43	18.66	3.66		3.76
Horsley, Benjamin 2d	1	1.43	69.96	12.18		10.05
Horsley, Jonathan	1	1.43	93.18	23.28		13.65
Horsley, Isaiah	1	1.43	84.42	11.70		11.52
Horsley, Rufus	1	1.43		4.44		1.90
Horsley, Benjamin 3d	1	1.43				1.43
Holister, Elisha	1	1.43	41.00	6.54		6.43
Hosmer, Eldad	1	1.43		12.00		2.59

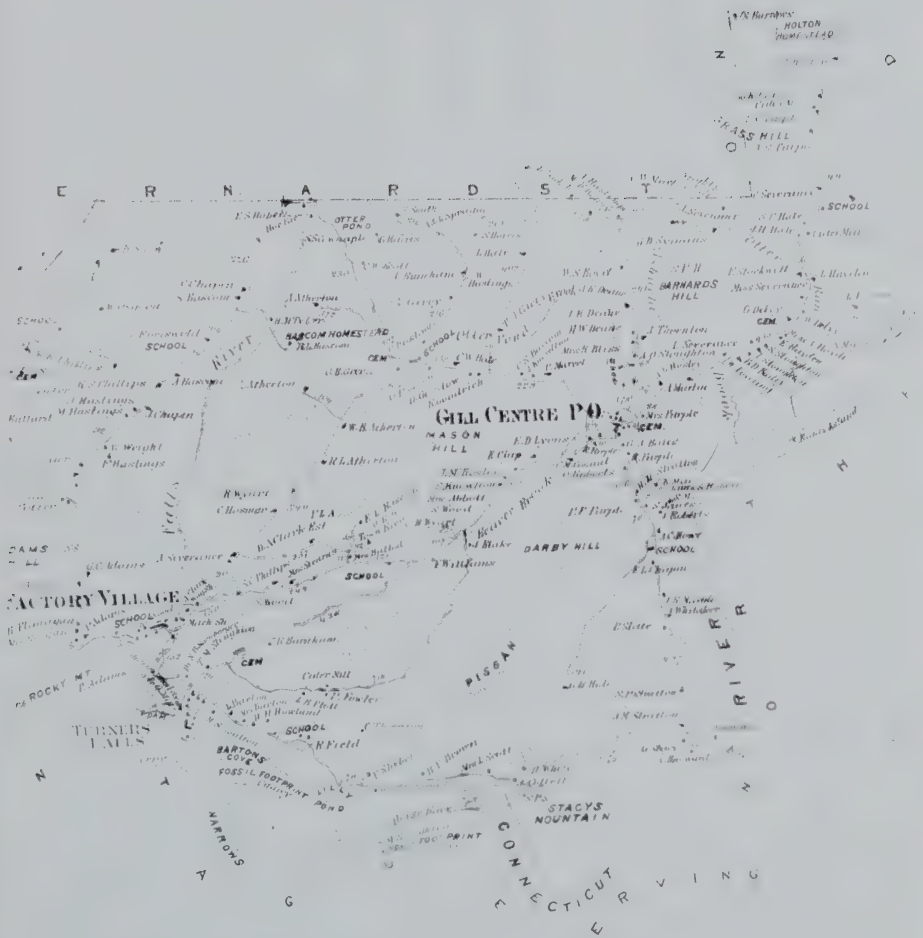
	No. Polls		Real Estate	Personal Estate	High- way	Sum Total
Hathaway, Samuel			\$ 3.34	\$ 3.12		\$.89
Hilman, Shubal	1	\$ 1.43	22.38	5.76		4.37
Janes, Samuel	1	1.43	46.56	5.76		6.92
Kenney, Reuben	1	.71	14.46	5.46		1.76
Kenney, Widow	1	.71	36.42	6.72		2.98
Leonard, Samuel	2	2.86	27.72	4.02		6.18
Luce, Samuel	2	2.86	64.08	13.08		10.95
Lyon, Samuel	1	1.43			.41	1.84
Lawson, William	1	1.43			.41	1.84
Munn, John			34.14	6.84		4.30
Mallard, Solomon	1	1.43	25.92	2.28		4.38
Munn, Noah	1	1.43	23.58	5.00		4.48
Munn, Eldad	1	1.43	23.58	5.00		4.48
Morley, Dimick	2	2.86	31.86	2.76		6.48
Morley, John	1	1.43	8.88	3.78		2.74
Munn, Seth	1	1.43	46.46	8.52		7.20
Munn, Moses	1	1.43				1.43
Mayhew, Wilmot	1	1.43	10.00	4.00	.40	3.30
Parmenter, Josiah	1	1.43	45.20	9.30		7.15
Parmenter, Asahel	1	1.43	4.98	1.62		2.11
Phillips, Willis	1	1.43	11.10	.72		2.67
Rice, Benjamin	2	2.86	13.12	2.40		4.48
Rice, Samuel	2	2.86	55.20	9.54		9.65
Rice, Enos	1	1.43	23.58	6.94		4.63
Roberts, Amaziah	1	1.43	59.70	9.60		8.69
Roberts, Ebenezer	2	2.86	31.30	9.48		7.16
Richards, Charles	1	1.43				1.43
Richards, Moses	1	1.43	65.76	14.52		9.86
Richards, Perrin	1	1.43	14.58	.90		3.05
Richards, Edward	2	2.86	8.28	2.22		4.96
Ripley, Laban	1	1.43	36.12	7.42		5.98
Ripley, Eli	1	1.43	1.20	.90		1.65
Starkweather, Elisha	2	2.86	46.04	9.60		8.69
Scott, Moses	1	1.43	20.04	6.00		4.16
Stanhope, Jonas	1	1.43	32.34	2.88		5.10
Sprague, Joseph	1	1.43		3.84		1.83
Sprague, Jonathan	1	1.43	76.20	14.16		10.92
Stoughton, Samuel	2	2.86	68.76	15.84		11.74
Stoughton, George	1	1.43	10.62			2.54
Squires, David	1	1.43	56.76	10.32	4.02	12.48
Stebbins, Elisha	2	2.86	38.58	8.41		7.79
Stebbins, Elihu	1	1.43		7.08		2.17
Stacy, Gilbert	1	1.43	68.10	6.48		9.35
Severance, Abner	2	2.86	62.94	16.74		11.23
Shattuck, Reuben	1	1.43	76.50	13.68		10.90
Slate, Ebenezer	1	1.43	27.78	3.33		4.68
Slate, Bethuel	1	1.43	27.78	3.33		4.68
Severance, Daniel	1	1.43	10.20	2.94		2.80

GILL TOWNSHIP

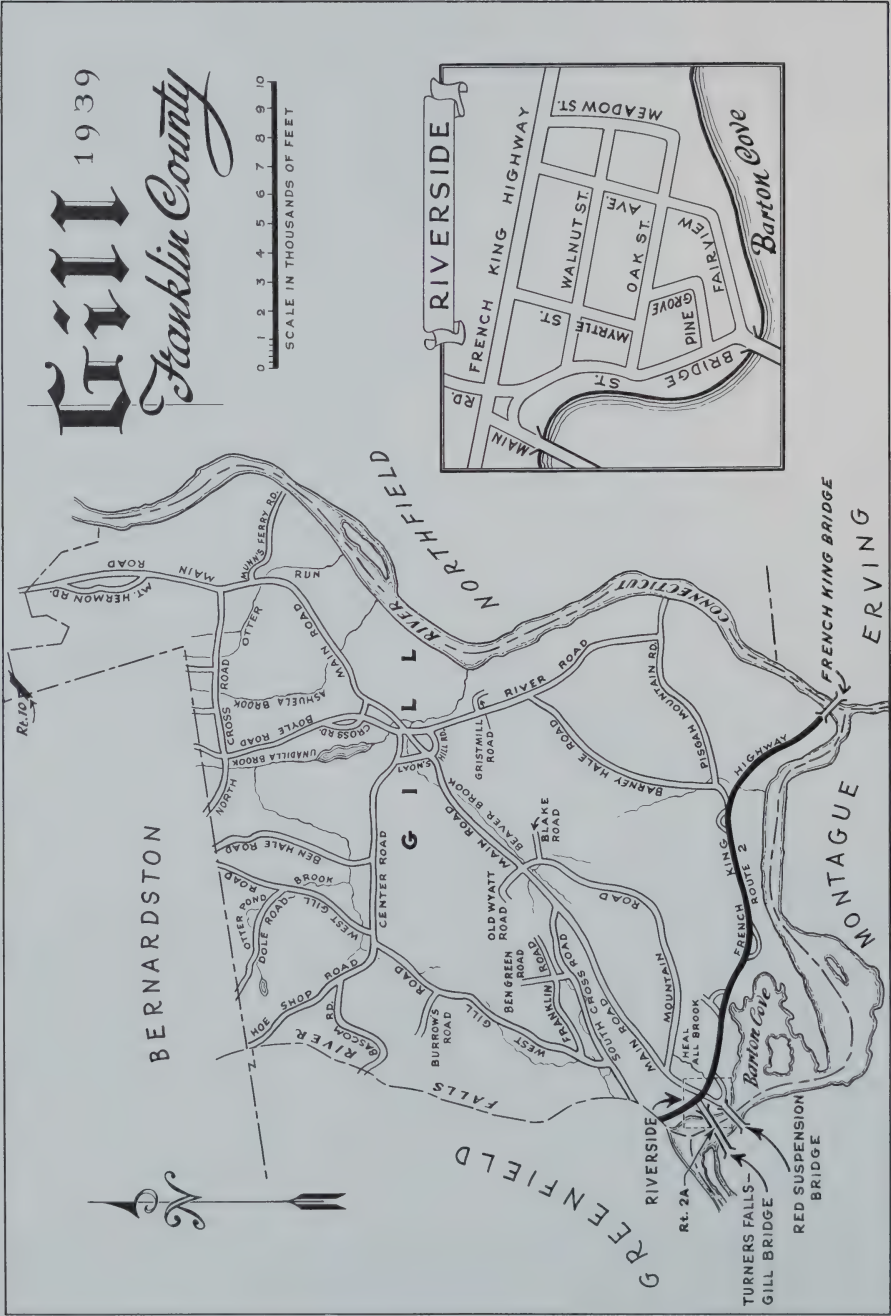
	No. Polls		Real Estate	Personal Estate	High- way	Sum Total
Thornton, John	1	\$ 1.43	\$ 6.60	\$ 4.86		\$ 2.62
Wrisley, David	2	2.86	91.02	10.92		13.56
Wrisley, David Jr.	1	1.43	14.74	2.88		3.27
Wrisley, Jonathan	1	1.43	16.50	5.22		3.60
Wrisley, Eleazer	1	1.43	60.84	9.18		8.78
Wrisley, Joseph	1	1.43	43.44	10.20		7.06
Wrisley, Asahel	1	1.43	43.98	7.56		6.84
Wrisley, Obed	1	1.43		3.18		1.76
Wrisley, Caleb	1	1.43				1.43
Webster, William	1	1.43	4.40	1.62		2.06
Webster, Widow	1	1.43	52.02	7.38		7.67
Walker, William	1	1.43	15.00	7.26		3.77
Walker, Samuel	1	1.43				1.43
Wrisley, Elijah	1-1/2	2.14	76.74	17.52		12.04
Woodward, Job	1	1.43	33.12	7.80		2.86
White, Robert	1	1.43	5.48	1.44		2.16
Rice, Levi	1	1.43	8.00	1.02		2.37
Chase, Pierce	1	1.43	19.50			3.39
Luce, Joseph	1	1.43		.90		1.52
Andrews, Jeremiah	1	1.43				1.43
Spooner, Joel	1	1.43	8.28	.90		2.37
Bean, Jeremiah	1	1.43				1.43
Wrisley, Eleazer Jr.	1	1.43				1.43
Holton, Nathan	1	1.43	19.74	.96		3.58
Munn, Elisha	2	2.86	26.16	7.44		6.37
Loveland, Frederick	1	1.43				1.43

	No. Acres			Sum
	Improved	Unimproved	Value	Total
Pomeroy, Medad Dr.		5-1/2	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.19
Briggs, Zadock	3		3.00	.31
Hamilton, John	3		3.00	.31
Phillips, Israel	3	3	1.38	.14
Whipple, Daniel	4	8	2.40	.25
Potter, Ichabod		20	1.98	.20
Thayer, Oliver		20	2.40	.25

Ed. Note: There are a few errors in this 1801 tax list, which no doubt the assessors were promptly made aware of.



Town of Gill, from Atlas of Franklin Co., Mass. (F. W. Beers & Co., N. Y., 1871).



Chapter 5

TOWN GEOGRAPHY

The Town of Gill lies in a wide, irregular bend of the Connecticut River as it makes an abrupt northwestward turn in its southern course at the mouth of Millers River. Across the river to the east are the Towns of Northfield and Erving; to the south the Town of Montague. Fall River separates it on the west from the Town of Greenfield, and the Town of Bernardston forms most of the northern boundary. The indenture of the southeast corner of Bernardston provides also a short western boundary upon that town, the remainder of the northern boundary being the irregular strip of Northfield between the Bernardston line and the Connecticut River.

The surface of the town is well apportioned between hill and rolling field, or meadow, the lowlands being about 200 feet above sea level, while Day's Hill has an altitude of 765 feet, and Mount Pisgah, the highest point in the town, reaches an elevation of 816 feet. The Village of Gill, known generally as Gill Center, lies in a cut between hills to the eastward and westward where Woodward's Brook and Beaver Brook meet. The Village of Riverside is located three miles distant in the southern part of the town along the Connecticut River at Turner's Falls. West Gill is made up of the section of the town along the old Proprietors Road from Fall River to Northfield, together with the part of the town between that road and Fall River. Mount Hermon comprises the Grass Hill section of Northfield annexed to Gill soon after its incorporation as a town.

Woodward's Brook, the largest stream within the township, rises in Bernardston, flows through Gill Center, and enters the Connecticut River below the site of the old Janes's sawmill. It appears in Josiah D. Canning's poems under the more musical name of Unadilla Brook, and this name to some extent has supplanted the original one. Otter Pond Brook, as the name implies, is the outlet of Otter Pond near the northwest corner of the town. It joins Woodward's Brook just north of Gill Center. Ashuela Brook skirts Barnard's Hill on the west, crosses the road to Northfield at the eastern foot of Davis's Hill and flows into the Connecticut. Otter Run Brook from Mount Hermon empties into the river opposite Kidd's Island. Beaver Brook has its head in the vicinity of Day's Hill, follows along the County Road (Main Road) which it twice crosses, tumbles down the hillside at Gill Center where it joins Wood-

ward's Brook. Cascade Brook starts in the swampland west of the Straits Road (now part of Main Road), crosses the County Road from Factory Hollow midway up Fall River Hill, and empties into Fall River at what was once the upper end of the mill pond. Heal-All Brook, the only stream of even fair size in the southern part of the town, flows through the middle of the Riverside section into the Connecticut River. Heal-All is a translation of the name given it by the Indians who believed that the springs which supply its water possessed medicinal properties that cured the sick.

According to a survey made by Ozias Roberts, the Town of Gill contains 8,900 acres, or approximately 14 square miles.

Gill has always been principally an agricultural community of scattered farms, and before the grain fields of the west were opened up commercially to the eastern markets, the town was widely known for its production of fine grain, rye and buckwheat being the main harvests. Broom-corn was also raised extensively in the early days. Tobacco, melons, and potatoes have been other profitable crops. As a town of farming inhabitants, Gill has ranked as one of the small towns in the state, but since the introduction of the automobile, enabling the employees in nearby factories or other places of business to live amid rural surroundings, the landscape of the town is fast becoming dotted with attractive dwellings of such residents interspersed among the farms.

TURNER'S FALLS

The modes of travel and manufacture have brought about so many changes that it is difficult to imagine the scene that must have been spread out before the eyes of the settlers who first came here. The natural falls in the Connecticut River no longer contain the cataract along the Gill shore. Both have been supplanted by a more lofty hydroelectric structure which has changed even the current and contour of the river, and has shorn the island of its soil and vegetation. Blasting for the dam and for the log drives that for many years came down the river each spring has widened the gap that formed the cataract.

Originally there was a sheer drop between the island and jagged rock along the Gill shore through which the water plunged for a distance of some 400 feet. Between the island and the Montague shore there extended a continuous ledge of rock which formed a natural waterfall, though water flowed over it only at times of high water, since the current normally raced downward through the cataract. This deflection caused a sudden curve in the river's current when it reached the site of the old ferry, and the flow was abruptly drawn toward the Gill shore. The sand that came down the river at times of high water was consequently thrown

off at this point very much as mud is thrown from a revolving wheel if there is no mudguard, until an immense sand bar was piled up along the Montague shore. Here the early boatmen beached and unloaded their rafts, and from it the ferry made the crossing. As soon as the cataract was dammed, flood water washed all this bar away until no vestige remains.

Because the waterfall was divided by the island, the Indians gave it the name "Peskeompscut," signifying "water cleft by a rock." Early records mention it as "Great Falls." The first settlers here called it "The Fish Falls" or "The Fishing Falls" because of the large quantities of shad seined here each spring. It was sometimes mentioned as "Greenfield Falls" or as "Montague Falls," and in at least one record it was called "Ballard's Falls" due to the fact that Ballard's Ferry was just above it. The records of the Canal Proprietors refer to it as "Miller's Falls," evidently due to lack of acquaintance on their part with this locality, and the name in consequence appears to have been much used in the early days of river traffic, and to have continued in general use up to about the year 1825. An advertisement in "The Franklin Herald" in 1824 called attention to the advantages of "the ferry above Miller's Falls in Montague."

In time the falls came to be known as "Turner's Falls" in memory of Captain William Turner who led the attack upon the Indians encamped above the cataract on the 19th of May 1676, and the name endured. Just when or by whom the falls were given this name is a matter of speculation. The earliest reference giving the falls that name seems to be found in a fanciful legend connected with an Indian warrior in the "Falls Fight," written by "Julius," a pen name used at times by Edward Hitchcock, and printed in the Greenfield "Gazette & Herald" issue of August 5, 1828.

"In the course of my pedestrian tour in the country, I was told that I was within a short distance of 'Turner's Falls' on the Connecticut river" is the opening of Mr. Hitchcock's tale. He was at that time teaching natural science in Amherst College, and in his "pedestrian tours" was undoubtedly gathering the geological knowledge that later made him an authority in that particular branch of science. If Professor Hitchcock was not the originator of the name "Turner's Falls," he at least made it a lasting name by his frequent use of it in his writings.

Barber's "Massachusetts Historical Collection" published in 1839 mentioned it as the most interesting waterfall in the state. "They were formerly called Miller's Falls, but of late have received the name of Turner's Falls in commemoration of Capt. Turner."

Professor Hitchcock in his "Geological Report" for 1833 gives a more graphic description:

"Turner's Falls exist in Connecticut river, near where the towns of Montague, Gill and Greenfield meet. They are by far the most interesting waterfalls in the state, and I think I may say, in New England. At least to my taste, the much broader sheet of water, the higher perpendicular descent and the equally romantic scenery of the surrounding country give it a much higher interest than is excited by a view of the more celebrated Bellow's Falls on the same river in Walpole, N.H."

The foregoing description applied to the waterfall over the dams on either side of the island. How much more impressive the original falls and cataract may have been before their natural grandeur succumbed to the demands of commerce and manufacture must be left to the imagination.

GREAT ISLAND

Great Island in the Connecticut River at Turner's Falls originally towered high above the normal water level, a rugged pinnacle of rock with a sheer drop on its western side to a lower expanse containing some three acres of fertile soil producing a heavy crop of hay mowed each year by the first settlers. Eastwardly it extended slightly farther up stream than present appearances indicate, with "Burnham's Rock," prized by fisherman, just above it on the Gill side. Here the river, except at flood times, entered a flume about 5 yards wide and 400 yards long between the island and the Gill shore, with walls of jagged rock through which the water hurled itself precipitously. From the other side of the island to the Montague shore the river, in times of high water, formed a natural waterfall. Such was the setting of Great Island in the days of the Indians at the place they called "Peskeompscut, the rock-cloven waterfall," and the town seal very appropriately commemorates its picturesque appearance. Today, however, Great Island is hardly more than a rocky bolster for the present dams, heavy toll having been taken from its surface in each successive rebuilding of the dams, and the rising level of flood water occasioned by their obstruction has washed all soil completely away.

In 1805 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ceded Great Island to the Town of Gill, and the town in 1819 sold the island to the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals for \$200. In 1847 considerable local excitement was aroused by the announcement that gold deposits had been discovered on the island, and the Proprietors granted mining privileges to a company of Boston financiers. The ore extracted proved to be iron pyrites, "Fool's Gold."

FRENCH KING

French King Rock in early times rose some 16 feet above the normal



Great Island around 1870. Building at Gill end of dam is Holmes, Wood & Perry sawmill.

water level, a rocky turret projected above the surface of the Connecticut River. The weight of this immense boulder has never been estimated, but it has remained immovable despite the tremendous pressures of flood waters, log jams, and ice jams.

Tradition is that during the French and Indian Wars, a French officer coming down the river in charge of a band of soldiers and warriors was so impressed by the prominence of this landmark that he took possession of it with appropriate ceremony in the name of the King of France. A report of his act in time came to the settlers in the valley, and voyagers along the river thereafter referred to it as "The French King's Rock." The flatboat men in the canal days clipped the name to "French King," and the French King Highway and Bridge have been correspondingly named to commemorate the tradition.

MILLERS FALLS

Before the construction of a dam at Great Island, and the consequent raising of the upstream water level from that point, there was a fall of swift water in the Connecticut River from the French King Rock to a point some distance below the mouth of the Millers River. Just below the Millers River juncture there was a drop of swift water known to the first proprietors and the early settlers as "Millers Falls." Millers Falls were not located in the Millers River, but were definitely designated as "Millers Falls in the Connecticut."

In 1737, when the proprietors were endeavoring to eject Joseph Brooks from the land he had appropriated just above French King Rock, the records describe the land as "adjoining to ye Great River in the first intervale Land above Millers Falls in said river." (Bk. 7; p. 208.) Other deeds describe land in this vicinity as "near the head" or "at the foot" of Millers Falls in the Connecticut River.

When the Proprietors of the Locks and Canals began their survey for a continuation of the work begun at South Hadley, the waterfall at Great Island had no definite name, and either through misunderstanding or lack of knowledge of the local area, it was termed "Millers Falls" in all their records, and presumably in all oral orders to their employees. Because of this use of the name by them, the name "Millers Falls" came into general use until the name of "Turner's Falls" was finally adopted.

KIDD'S ISLAND

Kidd's Island, not far below Munn's Ferry, is now the remains of what once was a far larger island. The great flood of 1862 completely submerged the island for the first known time, and carried away nearly one half of it. A large crop of hay was harvested annually and stored in

a barn on the island. This barn disappeared in the 1862 flood, and subsequent freshets have further depleted the surface of the island.

The name originated from a story told about one of Captain Kidd's sailors, who on his deathbed, in recounting some of the places the captain had buried his loot, said that Kidd once sent some members of his crew up the Connecticut River to dispose of a chest of treasure, and they had buried it "on the first island above the big falls." As the description seemed to fit the island here, it was thereafter known as "Kidd's Island," and not a few persons are known to have tried to unearth the buried hoard, while probably many others did so secretly.

HORSERACE

Between Deep Hole and the Narrows in the Connecticut River, there extended for some distance before the height of the later dams at Turner's Falls raised the water level a stretch of swift water known as the "Horserace." A series of rocks protruded above those rapids, and the spectator gazing at them intently soon experienced the optical illusion of witnessing the water at a standstill while the rocks hurtled forward at breakneck speed, very like a line of horses galloping, galloping onward. From this imaginary similarity, the name "Horserace" originated.

HOG'S HOLE

At the lower end of the Horserace there was a very treacherous whirlpool known as "Hog's Hole." The swirling eddy in this whirlpool formed an outline shaped much like the inverted hoof of a giant hog, and the early rivermen named it "Hog's Hole" because of this resemblance.

Chapter 6

THE MEETINGHOUSE

CONSTRUCTION AND EARLY CHURCH MATTERS

When the Town of Greenfield began to recognize the advisability of setting off that part of the town east of Fall River as a separate township, it logically became necessary for the town to take some measures for the proper religious care of the inhabitants of this northeast section while the matter was pending, because the distance they had to come to attend divine service was one of the main arguments in favor of the proposed township. With the other townsmen, those in the northeast were taxed for the maintenance of the church, but the majority of them were barred by distance from the benefit of continuous regular attendance. Accordingly, Greenfield voted on March 1, 1784 "that Mr. Newton go every fourth Sabbath the ensuing year to the North East Part of the Town to Preach" and "that he begin the 2nd Sabbath in March."

How long Mr. Newton continued this arrangement is unknown, and further reference to church matters was not made in the town records until more than four years later, when Greenfield voted on October 11, 1788 "to assist the Northeast part of this Town in Materials for building a Meetinghouse in proportion to their part of the present meetinghouse agreeable to their proportion in the last State List provided that part of the Town East of the Center of Fall-river git set off as a Town." Two weeks later the Town of Greenfield changed the nature of the proffered assistance from materials to money, and voted that 40 pounds be contributed toward building the meetinghouse, still contingent upon the provision that "they get set off as a town."

Four years passed and the matter of the new township was still unsettled. The subject had now been under consideration for more than ten years, and the prospect of any final action appeared as indefinite as ever. The people in the northeast part of the town were still without proper religious care, and it was proposed that the town either build a second meetinghouse in that section, or move the old meetinghouse to a more central location. Articles to this effect were contained in the warrant for a meeting held on December 3, 1792, but the proposals were rejected when votes were carried "that the Town can be accommodated with one Meetinghouse," "not to move the Meetinghouse," and "not to build a meetinghouse in the N. E. part of the town."

Incorporation of the northeast division of Greenfield as the township of Gill finally took place in the following year, and Gill wasted no time in turning its own attention to church matters. At a special meeting held on December 20, 1793, within two weeks after the town had organized and elected proper town officers, it was voted to raise 50 pounds "to procure materials for a meetinghouse," and Charles Richards, Samuel Stoughton, and Moses Bascom were made a committee "to provide the said materials to build the meetinghouse."

No settlement as yet had been made by Greenfield with the new town covering the proportion of taxes to be refunded, or equalizing other adjustments of town debits and credits. The Town of Gill owned a certain equity in all the Public Property of the Town of Greenfield, which at that time consisted principally of the meetinghouse. This building was again in need of repairs, and inasmuch as Gill held an interest in it anyway, the suggestion was brought forward that the new town take the structure as part of the settlement to be made by Greenfield. Gill was evidently willing to accept this arrangement on certain conditions, as it voted at the annual meeting held on April 7, 1794 "to receive the meetinghouse in Greenfield provided the town of Greenfield move it to the town of Gill at such place as the town of Gill shall appoint by the first day of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five & set it on as good a foundation as it now stands; the meetinghouse to be as good as it now is with regards to strength & beauty with the addition of new plastering & excepting the Clapboards & Shingles." On May 31, 1794, the town voted "to set the meetinghouse between Mr. David Squires's & the Schoolhouse near Woodward's brook on condition that Ebenezer Field Junr. & others belonging to the town of Northfield are annexed to the town of Gill."

For some reason the Towns of Gill and Greenfield failed to reach an agreement for the removal of the meetinghouse. Exact explanation for this is lacking, but it is evident from the Greenfield town records that there was disagreement not only between the two towns in this matter, but also among the members of the committee appointed by Greenfield to make settlement with the Town of Gill. Esquire David Smead resigned from the Greenfield committee and was replaced by another appointee. The details of the report which this new committee made to the town are not on record, but Greenfield refused to accept the report, and directed the committee to have the meetinghouse appraised, a step that had already been voted by the town on May 7, 1793 in its action for setting off the new township.

The old meetinghouse remained in Greenfield. The project for its removal was dropped and Greenfield later appropriated 100 pounds for

its repair. The Town of Gill posted a warrant for a meeting to be held on September 18, 1794, at which it was voted "to build a meetinghouse fifty feet long and forty feet wide." Committees were appointed to look after certain parts of the construction: Jacob Bates and Benjamin Hosley, Jr. "to provide Stepstones & other stone to underpin the meetinghouse;" Ebenezer Field, Bela Orcutt, and Samuel Stoughton "to take Dementions of the timber & take proper meashure to procure ^d timber;" and Moses Bascom, William Smalley, and Ebenezer Field "to set up the frame & cover it Completly with Bords, Clapboards, Frames & Sashes & Shinggles."

Having decided to build a meetinghouse of specified dimensions, and having turned its construction over to the superintendence of qualified committees, the problem seemed finally settled and the building on the way to completion. Accordingly the town gave attention to the matter of a pastor, and before this September meeting closed, Moses Bascom, William Smalley, David Wrisley, Ebenezer Field, and Samuel Stoughton were appointed "to Acquaint Mr. Baker that it is the mind of the People of the town of Gill to hire him to preach next Sumer upon probation." Mr. Baker surely had no cause to complain about insufficient notification.

The town was soon to discover, however, that there were many important matters to be decided before a permanent pastor for the contemplated church could be chosen, and that for some while preaching hired from Sunday to Sunday would supply the townspeople with religious services on the Sabbath.

At a meeting held in December, the town voted "to Appropriate the money dieu from the town of Greenfield" toward building the meetinghouse, and the committee appointed to set up the frames was directed also "to cover & lay the flores." So far all action on the part of the town had been entirely in preparation for the start of construction. No work yet had actually been done, nor could it be done until several other matters were definitely settled. One of these details was the location. The town had voted already to place the meetinghouse between David Squires's tavern and the schoolhouse if the Grass Hill section of Northfield should be annexed to the town, but no official action had yet been taken in this matter of annexation although the petition had been presented immediately after the Town of Gill had been incorporated. Construction of the meetinghouse, consequently, could not be commenced, as another location for the building would be necessary if the petition were reported unfavorably. The choice of this other location was a matter of much argument among the people of the town, and considerable divergence of opinion existed. At a meeting held on December 10, 1794, a committee consisting of William Smalley, Moses Bascom, and Samuel

Stoughton was appointed "to converse with the inhabitants of Northfield Respecting the seting of a meetinghouse," and the meeting was adjourned until the 15th of the same month to hear the report of the committee.

The committee offered a recommendation that the whole matter of a location be referred to a committee of outsiders who could render an impartial opinion, and that the town abide by such a committee's decision. Accordingly by vote of the town, the Honorable Moses Gill of Princeton, David Sexton of Deerfield, and Hugh McClellan of Colrain, as principals, and Elisha Root of Montague and John Bridgeman of Hinsdale, N. H., as alternates, were asked to determine two locations for a meetinghouse in Gill, one for the town as incorporated, and the other for the enlarged township if the Grass Hill division of Northfield were annexed. The selectmen of the town, Moses Bascom, William Smalley, and Noah Munn, were directed to wait upon this committee when it arrived.

The Honorable Moses Gill was unable to serve, and a committee composed of David Sexton, Hugh McClellan, and Elisha Root rendered the following report:

Gill December 24th 1794 Pursuent to the within vote we the subscribers after having Conviened & having viewed & Conclidered of the Several Roads & ways in the Town of Gill as Shown by the Selectmen of said Town of Gill are of Opinion that if that part of Northfield Called Grass Hill should be anexed to the Town of Gill the meetinghouse ought to be between Mr Squires & the schoolhouse & if the s^d Grass hill should not be anexed as aforesaid s^d House ought to be on the hill near Mr Bates barn all which is Humbly submitted

David Sexton
Hugh McClellan
Elisha Root

On the following day the town voted to accept the report of the committee as rendered, and the annexation of the Grass Hill section of Northfield on February 28, 1795 definitely determined the location of the meetinghouse, and the town was now able to decide upon the exact site for the building.

At the annual town meeting on March 2, 1795, Moses Bascom, Philip Ballard, and Ebenezer Field were appointed "to perfix a Spot for the Meetinghouse & Settle with Mr. Risley for the Land on which it Shall Stand." The town also appropriated 175 pounds toward construction expenses, and gave the committee in charge permission "to hire it Done by the Jobb if they See fitt." Fifteen pounds were also voted "to hire preaching."

The committee appointed "to perfix a Spot" for the meetinghouse reported to a special meeting held on April 6, 1795 that the following site had been chosen between Mr. Squires and the schoolhouse:

The Minits of the plat of ground Laid out by the Committee Appointed for that purpose Is as Follows Viz

Beginning at the southeast Corner of David Squires hors Shead thence runing S 37 E — 6 rods to a white oak Straddle thence runing E 31 N — 20 rods thence S 36 W — 8 rods & 9 links thence E 11 S—14 rods & 18 links thence W 31 S—8 rods & 12 links to the first mentioned Bound including the Six Rods Highway

Moses Bascom	}	Committee
Ebenezer Field Junr		
Philip Ballard		

The town approved the selection rendered, and voted also "to build a belphey to the Meeting House in Case of thirty Pound Subscriptions." Moses Bascom and George Goodrich were appointed to hire preaching for the following summer, plans for a permanent pastor being necessarily postponed. At a subsequent meeting held on June 15, 1795 it was voted to build the meetinghouse on the lot recommended and approved, and the cautious committee appointed for its construction, who refused to proceed before such a decision had been definitely enacted by the town, at once began building operations in earnest. By vote, the meetinghouse was to have no porch.

Work in the building had so far progressed by the month of December that it became necessary for the town to appropriate an additional 140 pounds, and on February 15, 1796, 66 pounds and 18 shillings were also voted. The building was now finished on the outside and properly enclosed and was painted the same color as the church in Sunderland (by vote of the town at the annual meeting on April 4, 1796). It was an architectural addition to the center. Though still far from completion, temporary interior furnishings made the building serviceable.

It was now time to consider the matter of church organization, and the choice of a permanent pastor. The church as a religious institution was a town affair in those days, but the church body (members) came under the jurisdiction of the pastor and the deacons. Up to this time the religious matters of the town had been conducted by the town itself, and there had been no separate church organization. Before a church could function as an active body to select a candidate for settlement as pastor, and recommend him to the town for approval, it was necessary that such a church organization be perfected. The church communicants from Gill



Congregational Church in Gill Center, early 1900's.

were still members of the church in Greenfield, and would so remain until formally dismissed. It was undoubtedly at this time that such dismissal was requested, as Reverend Roger Newton recorded in his diary that the Greenfield church granted permission to its members from Gill on May 22, 1796 to form a separate church of their own. The Gill church was immediately organized by election of proper officers. Moses Bascom and Reuben Shattuck, who already had served as deacons in the Greenfield church and Leyden church, respectively, were given the deaconships, and Deacon Bascom was chosen clerk, and Deacon Shattuck was elected treasurer. The church was now a formal body over which a settled pastor might preside, and within two months the church was able to recommend its candidate to the town.

At a special meeting held in July 1796 the town voted to concur with the church in extending a call to Mr. Zephaniah Swift, and to settle him upon the following terms:

- 1st — that Mr. Swift shall be Dismist when two thirds of the People wish for it giving him three Months notice.
- 2nd — that he may be Dismist when he shall wish giving the Town like notice.

A yearly salary of 110 pounds was proffered, and Moses Bascom, Noah Munn, Issac Johnson, Samuel Stoughton, and Benjamin Green were appointed a committee to acquaint Mr. Swift with the town's action, and to receive his reply.

Mr. Swift was a native of Wilmington, Vt., a graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1792, and was at that time pastor of the Congregational Church in Roxbury, Conn., where he had been ordained on July 5, 1795. Mr. Swift declined the invitation to come to Gill and remained in Roxbury until 1812 when he assumed the pastorate of the church in Derby, Conn., where he officiated until his death in 1848.

For more than a year afterward the pulpit in Gill was supplied by hired preaching, or by candidates. During that time the two ministers who came most frequently were the Reverend Jesse Edson and Joel Baker, who had once been looked upon as a possible candidate. Mr. Edson was a native of Buckland, a graduate of Dartmouth College, 1794, and was pastor of the church in Halifax, Vt. Mr. Baker was a native of Conway, a classmate of Zephaniah Swift at Dartmouth, and was ordained and installed pastor of the church in West Granville, Mass., on June 23, 1797, where he remained until his death in 1832.

In 1797 the Gill church decided to recommend that a call be extended to Mr. John Jackson, the action having been approved by the following votes:

Question 1st Whether it be the minds of this Church that Mr. John Jackson be desired to take the Pastoral Charge of them.

Voted in the Affirmative.

Question 2d Whether it be agreeable to the minds of this Church that the following request be sent by their Committee to Mr. John Jackson provided the Inhabitants of the town shall concur with them.

Sir Having become acquainted with your ministerial gifts & moral character & being herewith well pleased and satisfied we hereby signify our request to you that you would take the Pastoral Charge of us & in due time and manner be ordained to the work of the ministry in this place.

Voted in the Affirmative.

The above votes were passed in the Church of Christ in Gill Nov^r 13th 1797

Attest MOSES BASCOM Chh Clerk

Mr. Jackson was a native of Petersham, Mass., a graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1792, with Zephaniah Swift and Joel Baker as classmates.

The town approved the recommendation by the church and Job Goodale, Moses Bascom, John Howland, Noah Munn, and Benjamin Green were authorized to confer with Mr. Jackson and obtain his decision. Mr. Jackson assented, and his letter of acceptance follows:

To the Church & Congregation in Gill,
Friends & Brothers:

But a few days Since I received an Invitation to settle in the Christian Ministry among you; — Impressed with the Idea that what the Town did was done with freedom & deliberation & having duly acquainted myself with all circumstances relative to the important matter & having received the advice of other, I therefore feel a degree of freedom in gratifying your expectation & do gratefully accept the proposals you have made for my support & comfort & for the promotion of my usefulness among you.

Impressed with a sense of the importance of religion; of disseminating it among mankind, I freely consecrate & devote myself to the service of Christ & his flock in this place and that you may be prepared for the settlement of the Gospel & holy Ordinances of the Christian religion calculated to promote Love to God, Diffuse peace

and philanthropy among reasonable beings, — Let me humbly ask you to banish every prejudice & live according to the true spirit of Christianity. It is pleasing, it is a glorious consideration that you have been & still are free from all party opposition both in Church & Town.

How admiring the prospect to behold Christian friends & Neighbors drawn together with cords of love & harmonizing every social virtue. It was the grand Design of divine providence in creating man to make him a sociable being & Capable of the Charms of friendship. May we therefore ever consider the design of our Creation & of Christianity; govern ourselves according to the true Spirit of the Gospel; act upright honest parts in life; endeavour to promote each others temporal & Spiritual happiness; & live in all good conscience both towards God & Man, that wherever our lot may be in this world, we may ever enjoy the peace of our own mind, the Satisfaction of an approving conscience, & be at all times resigned to the will of Divine providence.

And tho I feel a degree of cheerfulness in taking the charge of Christ's flock in this place, — yet when I Seriously realize the inability of myself, I pause & am led to consider who is able for the important work. Let me then with Safety Depend on your candor & friendship to me, & fidelity to Christ the great head of the Church. I wish for nothing more than that this result might terminate in the glory of god, the success of my ministry, & the temporal & Spiritual welfare of the people. And in order to do this, let me daily experience the benefit of your prayers; pay a sacred regard to the established laws & orders of Christs kingdom. And may you improve in the knowledge & practice of all true religion that God might through his infinight wisdom & Mercy crown your labour in this world with the rewards of the faithful in his heavenly kingdom.

Gill Dec^r 1797

JOHN JACKSON

Mr. Jackson began his ministerial duties at once. His formal ordination as first pastor of the Gill church took place on January 10, 1798, an Ecclesiastical Council for that purpose having convened the day previous, and its proceedings were recorded as follows:

att an Ecclesiastical Council convened at Gill Jan^y the ninth 1798 by letters missive from the Church of Christ in Gill for the purpose of ordaining Mr. John Jackson to the work of the Gospel Ministry over the Church & Congregation in that place —

There were present

Rev. Judah Nash & Dn Israel Gunn from the Church of Christ in Montague.

- Rev. Roger Newton & Dn David Smead from the Church of Christ in Greenfield.
- Rev. Solomon Reed & Mr. James Jackson & Dn William Willard from the Church of Christ in Petersham.
- Rev. Joel Foster & Dn Samuel Kendall from the Church of Christ in New Salem.
- Rev. Joseph Kilburn & Dn Jona Osgood from the Church of Christ in Wendell.
- Rev. Amasa Cook & Dn Jesse Field from the Church of Christ in Bernardston.
- Rev. Samuel C. Allen & Dn Timothy Dutton from the Church of Christ in Northfield.

The Council formed & gave in their votes for a moderator & it appeared the Rev. Judah Nash had a majority & was chosen & the Rev. Samuel C. Allen was appointed Scribe.

The committee of the church & town came forward & laid before the council authentic copies of the votes of the chh & town giving Mr. Jackson a call to settle with in the Gospel Ministry and likewise a copy of Mr. Jackson's answer complying with their invitation.

The Council then called on the candidate for evidence of his being a member of the christian church & of his being regularly licenced to preach the gospel & he exhibited credentials from the Westminster Association of his being an exemplary member of the chh of christ in Petersham (the Pastor of said chh being present also gave evidence of his being in regular standing in ^{sd} chh) & of their approbation of him as a well qualified candidate for the Gospel Ministry.

The Council then proceeded to an examination of the candidate respecting his views & motives in entering upon the Ministry — of reconciliation respecting his knowledge in the principals of religion — his belief of divine revelation & or his sentiments on the doctrine of the Gospel.

After which the candidate was directed to withdraw & the Council "Voted unanimously that they were satisfied with the knowledge, faith & character of the candidate." The Council then proceeded to assign the parts of the public solemnity of his inauguration & induction into the ministry & appointed the Rev. Mr. Foster to preach the sermon. The Rev. Mr. Nash to give the charge. The Rev. Mr. Newton to make the ordaining prayer. The Rev. Mr. Cook to give

the right hand of fellowship & the Rev. Mr. Kilburn to make the concluding prayer. Voted that the public solemnities of the ordination begin tommorrow at 11 o'clock A.M.

January 10, 1798

The council proceeded this morning agreeable to their vote to the ordination of Mr. John Jackson to the work of the Gospel Ministry over the chh & congregation in Gill: — which ordination was publicly performed in the meetinghouse in s Gill according to the order of the Council; the Rev. Solomon Reed made the introductory prayer; — the Rev. Joel Foster preached the sermon; — the Rev. Roger Newton made the ordaining prayer; — the Rev. Judah Nash gave the charge; — the Rev. Amasa Cook gave the right hand of fellowship — & the Rev. Joseph Kilburn made the concluding prayer.

Signed JUDAH NASH Mod.
Attest Sam^l C. Allen Scribe

A true copy of the original minutes

Attest Sam^l C. Allen Scribe

The "Greenfield Gazette" for February 7, 1798 in commenting on the ceremonies, averred that the exercises "were accompanied with the decency in the assembly and harmony in the church and people which made the occasion solemn as well as pleasant." The Reverend Joel Foster's "well composed sermon suitable to the occasion" was printed in pamphlet form and sold by the publisher for 12-1/2 cents per copy.

The Gill church was at last a reality, with a commodious meeting-house, and a settled pastor to conduct services therein.

The Honorable Moses Gill, in acknowledgment of the distinction conferred upon him by the town in the perpetuation of his name, contributed all the nails and glass necessary in the construction of the meetinghouse. Mr. Gill was over generous in his gift of glass, and although the builders inserted as many windows as was possible, leaving little space between either those on the main floor or those along the pew galleries, they were unable to exhaust the supply. Even with this almost continuous row of both upper and lower windows, there remained a surplus of glass that was sold for \$44. Deacon Reuben Shattuck, who was treasurer of the church, evidently wrote to Mr. Gill concerning the disposal of this money, and Gill's reply has been preserved, and follows:

Boston Feb^y 9 1798

Sir

I received your letter of the first Instant and Note its Contents, the 44 Dollars in your hands Arising from the Sale of the glass, I mean shall still be retained in your hands for the use either of your Church or Meetinghouse, but dont wish to make any Appropriation at Present, till I know from you, what will be the best use to Put it too.

I have a large Handsome follio Bible, which I have designed for the use of your Society to be read every Lordsday — and wish you to send to my house in this town for it the first Convenient Opportunity. It will be pack^d in a Box.

I hear well of the Minister you have settled and should have been with you at the Ordination — had the Circumstances of my family admitted of it. I wish every Blessing to the town and People.

And am wth esteem, your humb^l serv^t

MOSES GILL

Mr Ruben Shattuck

The Bible is, as Mr. Gill described it, a handsome volume, and now, together with the box in which it was packed, is in the Slate Memorial Library. Mr. Gill already had presented the church with a communion service.

The town as yet had obtained no deed to the land on which the meetinghouse stood, as laid out by the appointed committee whose report had been accepted by the town at the meeting on April 6, 1795. Mr. Eleazer Wisley, the owner of the property, objected to the five-sided plat chosen by the committee, and offered the town the gift of a piece with more rectangular bounds.

For more than three years the matter was the subject of somewhat heated discussions and arguments before the town assented to Mr. Wisley's offer. The deed was executed by Mr. Wisley on November 30, 1798, and four days later the town voted "to reconsider a vote passed respecting the Plat of Ground around the Meeting House & except of a Deed Mr. Wisley shal give, the minutes of which hath this day ben read." By that deed, Mr. Wisley quit-claimed to the Town of Gill forever the land that makes up the common as well as the church site.

Mr. Wisely's quitclaim deed is an interesting document and reads as follows:

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents, THAT I, ELEAZER WRISLEY of Gill in the County of Hampshire & Commonwealth of

Massachusetts, Yeoman, For divers Reasons me mooving, do freely & clearly give to the Town of Gill a certain Tract of Land in said Gill
 - - - - - and do for myself and my heirs, remise, release, and sell and forever quitclaim unto the said Town of Gill a certain Tract of Land & is bounded as follows (viz) beginning at a white oak straddle on the north side of the Road, eighteen rods west of the Meetinghouse, Thence running east 9-N eighteen rods, Thence east 7-S eight rods and 15 links to southwest corner of Job Goodale's House, thence South to the road, thence westwardly on the Road to place of beginning, together with all the estate, right, title, use, property, claim and demand whatsoever of me, the said Eleazer Wrisley, which I now have, or at any time heretofore had, of, in and to the aforementioned premises with the appurtenances, or to any part thereof, or which at any time heretofore has been held, used, occupied or enjoyed as part or parcel of the same.

To have and to hold all the afore granted premises with the appurtenances to the said Town of Gill, their heirs and assigns forever, with the reversions, and reversions remainder and remainders, thereof, or any part or parcel thereof forever, so that neither I, the said Eleazer Wrisley, nor my heirs, nor any other person or persons claiming from or under me, or in the name, right or stead of me or them, shall or will by any way or means have claim, challenge or demand any estate, right, title or interest, of, in and to the aforesaid premises with appurtenances, or any part or parcel thereof, forever.

In witness whereof, I the said Eleazer Wrisley, have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of Novr in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

ELEAZER WRISLEY

Signed, sealed and delivered
 in the presence of us

Moses Bascom
 Noah Munn
 Gilbert Stacy

Acknowledgment to the deed was not made by Mr. Wrisley until June 10, 1805, and the deed remained unrecorded until August 19, 1846. (Bk. 140, p. 104)

The interior of the meetinghouse was still unfinished; work on the building had been suspended some time in 1796 and no further appropriations for its completion had been made since that year. At a meeting held on December 3, 1798, when the town voted to accept Mr. Wrisley's deed, a committee had been appointed to procure a plan for the interior

of the meetinghouse, and to report at a future meeting. For some reason this committee, composed of Dimick Morley, Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck, and Moses Bascom, seems to have made no report, and the matter was dropped by the town until January 1803.

In the meantime, Mr. Jackson had been suspended from his ministry on charges preferred against him in the Fall of 1801, and at a meeting held on October 26, 1801, it was voted not to restore him to his ministerial labors. A committee composed of Reuben Shattuck, Job Goodale, and Ebenezer Field was appointed to effect Mr. Jackson's dismissal. Reuben Shattuck, Shubael Hillman, and Moses Bascom were authorized to hire preaching, for which the town appropriated 50 pounds.

Mr. Jabez Munsell became the second pastor of the Gill church, a call having been extended to him by vote of the town on April 26, 1802. A committee, composed of Moses Bascom, Job Goodale, Gilbert Stacy, and Benjamin Green, was appointed to cooperate with the church committee in arranging for the ordination which took place on May 26, 1802. The ordination sermon was delivered by Reverend John Taylor of Deerfield.

The completion of the meetinghouse began to be given consideration early in the following year. At a town meeting held on January 24, 1803, Moses Bascom, Job Goodale, Gilbert Stacy, Samuel Stoughton, and David Wrisley were chosen to draw up a plan for the installation of pews, and the plan presented by this committee was accepted at the regular annual meeting held on March 7, 1803. Here the matter rested until the following December when it was voted to finish the meetinghouse by selling the "pew ground;" a bell to be purchased out of the surplus funds. Nothing resulted, however, and the matter continued to drag along. At a meeting held on May 30, 1804, Job Goodale, Gilbert Stacy, and Moses Bascom, Jr. were authorized to sell the pews and take securities. No sales were made, however. The scheme failed because no one was willing to purchase a pew that had no representation beyond a location on a plan. The attempt to raise funds by the advance sale of pews was not feasible, and the fact was finally recognized. The committee solved the problem by engaging a carpenter to finish the interior for \$1,075; a proceeding which the town ratified on June 12, 1804, with the stipulation that the pews should have banisters. It was also voted at this meeting that the northwest Body Pew No. 50 and the Wall Pew No. 14, west of the door, should be reserved, "free for any Person in the town to set in." The vote was reaffirmed the following year.

By the first of December the work on the pews had so far progressed that actual selling began, and the deed to the first pew sold bore the date of December 3, 1804. The interior of the building was not completed,

however, until September of 1805. At a meeting held on the 11th of that month, the town voted to accept the finished work and appointed Job Goodale, Gilbert Stacy, Moses Bascom, Samuel Stoughton, David Wrisley, George Goodrich, and Reuben Shattuck a committee to adjust the extra expenses still due the joiners. On the recommendation of this committee, the town appropriated an additional \$70 as settlement of the expenses in full. A vote was also passed to dedicate the new meetinghouse on September 26, 1805, and Moses Bascom, Gilbert Stacy, and Ebenezer Chapin were given charge of the matter.

When the meetinghouse was dedicated, the church was again without a settled pastor. The Reverend Jabez Munsell had been dismissed in May 1805, and the pulpit was being supplied by candidates on probation, or by ministers hired from week to week. In December, as no successor to Mr. Munsell had been found, \$300 was appropriated to hire preaching, with Job Goodale, Reuben Shattuck, Gilbert Stacy, Samuel Stoughton, and Ebenezer Chapin appointed as the committee in charge.

At a special meeting held directly after the annual town meeting on March 3, 1806, it was voted to extend a call to Josiah W. Cannon to become pastor of the church at a salary of \$400 per year. Before returning a definite answer, Mr. Cannon made the following proposal:

To the Church & society in Gill
Gentlemen

Previous to my returning an answer to the Call which I have received from you to Settle with you in the work of the Ministry I desire to Propose to your Consideration the following alterations in your offer for my support (Viz)

- 1st That the sum of \$500 be granted me by way of Present relief & that in Consequence thereof the Salary be \$300 annually for the first five years and after that period be \$400 annually.
- 2nd That should I make a Purchase of a house or a homestead, Obligations to the amount of the \$500 be given by the town to the man of whom the Purchase is made, that I might be freed from every kind of Care trouble or anxiety in the Discharge of Payment.

JOSIAH. W. CANNON

At a meeting held on May 12, 1806, the town voted to accede to Mr. Cannon's request, whereupon Mr. Cannon delivered the following letter of acceptance:

To the Church & Society in Gill

Agreeable to your united request, I now offer my answer to the Great question, which has ben submitted to me for some time for a decision; I mean that which respects my willingness to settle with

you in the important work of the Gospel Ministry.

In entering into a solemn relation of this nature, I have ever considered caution & deliberation, indispensable. It becomes not Parties, rashly & precipitately to form a Connection in which so many weighty & Eternal consequences are involved, as in that subsisting between a minister & People. This Connection is not like a Bargain, made between man & man in the ordinary business & transaction of life, nor is it like an agreement in which Contracting Parties deem themselves holden, only for a limited period, but it is a relation into which the parties Engaging should consider themselves as Entering for life; a relation having reference not only to time but eternity, not simply to this life, but to the next; a connection of this nature claims not man, but God, for its author, and a Gospel call from any People, for the settlement of the ministry, is a call, not only from that people but from the great head of the church. But a gospel call proceeds, from Gospel motives, in the minds of those who make it. If the call is occasioned by an unfeigned desire for the furtherance of the cause of Christ & Compliance with revealed duty, it deserves to be seriously & Conscientiously regarded by him who is the Subject of it, but there are so many false & Spurious motives by which men may be actuated in matters, even of the most solemn & Sacred nature, that it is many times difficult to determine what is duty & what is not. Calls are many times, doubtless, given which do not proceed from a spirit of the Gospel, and Connections Between ministers & People are sometimes formed, it is to be feared, which are not approved & ratified in heaven.

In giving a call, I deem it necessary that People Should Diligently Examine the motives by which they are governed; carefully attend to the nature of the Connection which they are Desirous of forming; realize the Obligations which devolve upon them; & Suitably Estimate the labours, the wants and necessities of him whom they call to the work. It is highly important that they feel themselves cheerful, not only in Engaging, but also in their Expectation of fulfilling; that their united Engagements proceed not from a sudden transport of feeling, which a change of Situation or circumstances might weaken & destroy, but from a firm & unwavering assent, which will remain even in adversity.

When a Call is thus hopefully presented, it deserves to be Suitably & Prayerfully noticed. But to determine whether it be of this kind is generally difficult & frequently impossible. People are often deceived respecting their own views, & frequently, respecting the views of others. These, therefore, may be offered as reasons why in-

vitations to settle in the work of the ministry should be Considered as Subjects of Carful & deliberate reflection. The call I have received from this people has ben with me for Several weeks past a Subject of meditation. I have endeavored to Examine wheather the circumstances attending it are Evidential of its being the Expression of Genuine & Gospel sincerity. And such upon due Consideration, I am charitably induced to Consider it. May God Grant that I am not deceived. In the fulness of this persuasion, I venture with trembling to accept it and make my answer in the affirmative. The work, my friends, to which I am Called is great and arduous, in view of my weakness & imperfections. I almost shrink from the undertaking. If an inspired apostle of Jesus Christ had accation to Exclaim "who is Suficient for these things!" — with what propriety may I, who am young & inexperienced, adopt the Exclamation: I humbly desire to Comply with your request, with all that Diffidence in my own Strength & Sufficiency, with all that reliance on your Christian candor & disposition to overlook my frailties & aid me in my labours, & with all that dependance on divine Goodness & Support which my present Situation requires me to entertain and Cherish.

Shurd an ordaining counsel see fit to set me over you in the order of the Gospel, as a minister of Jesus Christ, I hope it may be our united & fervent prayers that we might prove mutual Blessings to Each other & fellow heirs of the Grace of God; that a Spirit of unanimity & friendship might subsist between us; that our hearts might be united by Gospel love & the faith of our common lord & Savior Jesus Christ; we might be influenced by the Same Endeavours for the Promotion of peace & undefiled religion & the advancement of our immortal interest.

Gill May 12th 1806

JOSIAH W. CANNON

The second Wednesday in June was set as the date for Mr. Cannon's ordination. Gilbert Stacy, Ebenezer Chapin, and Samuel Janes were appointed to cooperate with the church committee, and Moses Bascom, Bethuel Slate, and Oliver Root were given the task of providing music for the occasion.

An Ordination Ball was held in the afternoon, to which invitations had been issued as follows:

The Company of is
desired at Mr. E. S. Field's Assembly Room,
on Wednesday the 11th instant, at 4 o'clock P.M.

G. Goodrich, Jr.	} Managers
A. Bascom	
H. Janes	

Gill, June 5, 1806

The ordination of a minister and his settlement as a pastor over the church of a town was an event of serious import and of far-reaching consequences. For many a young theologian, the settlement was the beginning of a pastorate to which his entire life would be devoted, and upon its outcome the hopes and aspirations of the church and the town were dependent. The matter was not to be lightly treated by either of the contracting parties; the choice of a pastor was a task not to be performed without deep reflection, and not without a petition for divine guidance.

The Town of Gill at this time did not overlook the deep significance of these facts, and the Wednesday preceding the ordination of Mr. Cannon was set aside as a day of fasting and prayer, that divine blessing might be invoked upon their choice of a pastor.

Mr. Cannon was installed as settled pastor of the Gill church on June 11, 1806 with all the ceremonies appropriate to such an occasion, the sermon of ordination being delivered by the Reverend Dr. Theophilus Packard of Shelburne. Mr. Cannon began his labors under more auspicious conditions than his predecessors because the meetinghouse was completed and furnished. Its only lack was a bell in the belfry. The gift of this bell had been expected from the Honorable Moses Gill, instead of the baptismal basin and communion service donated; a gift which appears not to have been entirely satisfactory, as a committee was appointed on August 11, 1814 "to have the cups or goblets formerly used and the baptismal basin which were presented by Moses Gill moulded into a baptismal basin of more modern form."

The meetinghouse was repainted in the summer of 1817 and its new splendor tended to accentuate the emptiness of the belfry. Subscriptions to raise funds to purchase a bell were solicited and the necessary amount was obtained so soon that within two weeks the bell had arrived and had been hung in the belfry, and the total amount raised had been sufficient not only for a bell, but also for an elegant pulpit scarf and a handsome clerical gown for the pastor. Mr. Cannon was so moved by these "laudable exertions and liberal donations" that he delivered a commemorative sermon on August 6, 1817 which was printed and advertised for sale at the Greenfield Bookstore for 9 pence. The bell was rung not only on Sundays for church services; but also on other days at 12 o'clock noon during the summer months, and at 9 o'clock at night during the winter; also on holidays and at funerals, or other special occasions.

As the population increased in the town, the percentage of those attending churches of other denominations correspondingly increased until the town no longer represented a unified church interest, and the ministerial tax changed from a town to a personal matter. To meet this condition, a body known as the "Congregational Church & Society in Gill"

was organized on March 12, 1821 to administer the financial and secular affairs of the church.

Mr. Cannon continued his ministerial duties in Gill for more than twenty years. He witnessed many changes during those years. Some of his parishioners were among those attracted to other denominations, and many of the members of the church removed to the various sections of land opening up in the west to new settlers. The church instead of being a permanent body seemed to be inconstant and ever changing. Mr. Cannon began to believe that this might possibly be due to some fault of his own, although, as he said, he had "always followed the dictates of his own conscience." There were also undoubtedly some elements of friction among the church members. A minority or opposition faction generally exists in all bodies, and the records, although stating no specific charges, indicate such a condition existed. In 1827, Mr. Cannon asked to be relieved of his pastorate, and on June 13 preached an affecting farewell sermon.

No immediate successor to Mr. Cannon was chosen and the pulpit was filled by various preachers hired from Sabbath to Sabbath. In September, the Reverend Francis L. Whiting came to Gill with the following letter of introduction from the pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Northfield:

Northfield, Sept. 5th, 1837

To Mr. Asa Stoughton or Capt. I. Chenery,

I take the liberty to introduce to your acquaintance, the Rev. M. Whiting, the Bearer of this. I have requested him to call on you, supposing that your Committee would wish to engage some person to preach in Gill, until you hear from Mr. Wilcox. I know not who your Committee are, & therefore refer him to you for direction. Mr. Whiting is a Congregational Clergyman of orthodox faith. I have no acquaintance with him before today. But he has credentials which are full. If your Committee should employ him to labour among you, for a season, I should hope that he would be instrumental of promoting the spiritual interests of your Church & Society.

Very respectfully yours,

ELI MOODY

Although Mr. Whiting proved to be acceptable to the people, for some reason he was not settled as their pastor, but preached for a little more than a year as a temporary appointee. In early October 1829, the Reverend James Sanford replaced Mr. Whiting. Mr. Sanford, or Sandford, as he signed his name while in Gill, had already had considerable experi-

ence in preaching in New York State, and had come to Gill bearing a letter from Reverend Richard S. Storrs of Braintree:

Braintree Sept. 28, 1829

My dear sir:

I have requested the Rev. James Sanford to visit Gill, and spend a few weeks with you if he shall find you unsupplied. I have confidence in the purity of his christian and ministerial character and believe that you will find him an efficient and faithful man. It is several years since I have heard him preach, and therefore am unable to judge of his pulpit talents except from what report says of him; and report speaks well. You will hear him, and then judge for yourself.

I should think it well for you to engage him to spend four sabbaths with you, and during that time, you will have opportunity to form an opinion as to his probable usefulness, should he continue among you; and he will also have opportunity to judge whether he could be happy among you.

May the Lord guide you. Mr. S is a man who will not consent to remain with you unless he have your hearts and your cooperation in the great work in which he is engaged. You will treat him I doubt not, as a minister of Christ while he is with you, whether he remain long with you or not. And should you deem it desirable to hear another candidate, it will give me pleasure to assist you, any way in my power.

With much respect and affection,
I remain,
Yours in the Lord,
R. S. STORRS.

Dea. T. Stoughton.

Mr. Sanford conducted services during the month of October, and on November 2 was hired to supply preaching for one year, the term to be retroactive to October 1. On November 23, however, the church voted to give Mr. Sanford a call to be settled as pastor, and Deacon Timothy Stoughton, Isaac Chenery, and John A. Tenney were appointed a committee to present the call to him. Mr. Sanford accepted, but when an Ecclesiastical Council convened in Gill for his installation on Wednesday, December 23, a petition signed by sixteen members of the church was presented, remonstrating against his settlement, not because of any objections to his personal character or qualifications, but because they believed it inadvisable, in view of the unstable condition of the

Church Society at the time, to install anyone as a settled pastor over the church. Mr. Sanford consequently declined installation because of this lack of unanimity. The Council spent the following day, Thursday, the 24th, in "a candid and patient examination" of the facts and conditions, and after removing some "impressions that had unfortunately arisen," found the petitioners, who really had the best interests of the church at heart, willing to withdraw their objections as they were all "highly sensible of the importance of avoiding every source of disunion" among the members of the church. Mr. Sanford was equally conciliatory, and withdrew his refusal. The Council proceeded to its examination of the candidate and found him satisfactory. He was duly installed as the fourth pastor of the Gill church on Friday, December 25, 1829, the sermon for the occasion being preached by the Reverend Theophilus Packard of Shelburne. On April 4, 1831 Mr. Sanford requested dismissal, which was granted, and he retired on the 21st of the same month.

After an absence of five years spent in teaching, Mr. Cannon returned to Gill, where his wife and younger sons had remained. During the interim, Mr. Cannon had changed his name by due process of law, from "Cannon" to "Canning," and henceforth was known as the Reverend Josiah W. Canning. His sons also assumed the same name.

From time to time, Mr. Canning occupied his former pulpit. His previous long association with the church in Gill had created bonds that were reciprocally hard to sever. Gill was home to Mr. Canning, and in its church lay his chief interest and devotion. Instinctively the church turned to him again, as a father who has returned from absence in a strange land is welcomed back to the bosom of his family. Mr. Canning shortly became the regular officiating clergyman and occupied the pulpit most of the Sundays during the following five years, although no formal induction as pastor had been observed. Finally "feeling that the interests of religion might be essentially promoted in this place, by attaching to our Pastor a greater permanency of Pastoral prerogatives & influence," the church on August 29, 1839 extended a call to Mr. Canning for his resettlement.

Mr. Canning, in a letter dated the next day, accepted the call:

Brethren & Friends,

In answer to your united invitation for my reestablishment among you in the Gosp. Ministry; after surveying this, as the field of my past labors for many years; after viewing the peculiarly guiding hand of Providence, in the many striking incidents of our past history; after consulting the feelings of tenderness & affection, which a residence of many years, & long habits of intimacy & friendly intercourse have inspired; & after having, as I trust, committed

my way unto God, & sought His holy direction, I hereby consent to become your Pastor, the little time I may be able to serve you in this office provided an ecclesiastical Council should see fit to sanction your proceedings. And this I do, with the Hope & prayer that Almighty God may bless our reunion, & render it subservient to the most happy results, for His glory, & the spiritual good of this Community.

Relying on your good faith & Affection I accept the proposals you offer; & the more readily as they seem dictated by a willing mind, & are the apparent measure of your ability. This reserve, however, I wish to make, in my acceptance of your offer, viz, that while my ministry continues, I may appropriate to myself, at least two sabbaths a year for the purpose of journeying, if need be, & visiting distant friends.

J. W. CANNING

An Ecclesiastical Council convened in Gill on September 24, 1839 with the Reverend Salmon Bennett of Wendell as Moderator and the Reverend Samuel Washburn of Greenfield as Scribe, and Mr. Canning was duly installed a second time as Pastor of the Congregational Church in Gill.

Mr. Canning performed his pastoral duties until he suffered a shock on September 6, 1846 which incapacitated him for service. In the following spring, the Reverend William Miller assumed temporary charge of the church as Mr. Canning's colleague.

At a meeting of the Congregational Society of Gill, as the secular body of the church had been renamed, it was reported on April 13, 1846 by a committee previously appointed that the cost of "repairing the church in modern style and moving the same to more suitable ground" was estimated to be \$1,200. The bounds of Mr. Wrisley's deed left the meeting house standing in the lower corner adjacent to the present Marble property. Beneath the meetinghouse there was only an ordinary stone foundation. It was proposed to raise the building, move it back and westward to a more central position, and to build a basement beneath it. The pew galleries on the sides of the church, no longer needed for the accommodation of the congregation, were to be removed and the upper row of windows, consequently unnecessary, were to be taken out.

A committee consisting of Deacon Timothy Stoughton, Deacon Elijah Green, John A. Tenney, Dr. Joel Lyons, and John G. Creagh was named to endeavor to raise the sum by subscription, and the committee

reported at a meeting held on June 22, 1846 that the required amount had been subscribed. A contract to do the work necessary for the proposed changes was made with Philbrook Holden, but it took two years of prodding Mr. Holden to get the work done. During that time, services were held in Ichabod D. Battle's building. The remodeled church with its new spire was dedicated on February 21, 1849 in conjunction with the ceremonies incident to the installation of Mr. William Miller, who had accepted a call to the pastorate of the church. Mr. Miller severed his connection on June 4, 1850, and the Reverend Edward Brooks was installed in his place on June 25, 1851. Mr. Canning's pastoral connection with the church was never dissolved, and he was nominally the head of the church at the time of his death on October 4, 1854.

The Reverend Edward Brooks resigned in May 1856, and since that date the church has had a long list of ministers, with many periods in between that were filled by temporary preaching. During the summer of 1865, the pulpit was filled by the Reverend William M. Richards, who had spent his boyhood in Gill, his father, Dr. William Richards having practiced medicine here for many years before his death in 1825.

The Reverend Edward S. Potter occupied the pulpit for eight years from 1868 to 1876. He was a native of Leyden, the son of Briggs E. Potter, and was educated at Wilbraham Academy and Wesleyan College. His wife, Mary Crandall, met a tragic death at an early age by falling into the fireplace. He died in Malden on December 30, 1895 at the age of eighty-four.

Reverend Alexander R. Plumer, born June 25, 1827 in South Berwick, Maine, occupied the pulpit for three years from 1879 to 1882. He was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1850 and prepared for the ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. After several years spent in missionary service in Armenia, he returned to his native State of Maine to take up home missionary work, which he carried on until it became necessary for him to seek a less active field. He left Gill in 1882 to assume a pastorate in Phillipston, Mass., and he afterward preached in New Salem, Mass., and in Granby, Vt. He died on March 7, 1898 in DeLand Florida, where he spent each winter after his retirement from the ministry.

Miss Isabella W. Hume, who had previously gained a wide experience in home missionary work, preached from the church pulpit for about a year in 1897. Ill health, however, forced her to relinquish her pastorate here, and she died at her home in New Haven, Conn., on June 3, 1898.

Among those who have served as pastors of the church since 1900, mention should be made of the Reverend Albert Plumb, Jr., and of the Reverend Edward P. Tenney, who previously had been the first President of Colorado Springs College.

Alterations and improvements to the church building have continued to be made from time to time. The roof was slated in 1872, and in 1877 a furnace was installed. The pews in the northeast corner were removed in 1880 to give the choir better accommodations, and the spire on the church was rebuilt in 1889.

When Mr. Canning retired from active pastoral duty, the church found itself without suitable accommodations for his successor, as no house was available in the immediate vicinity of the center of the town. The church itself was not financially able to provide a parsonage, so a company of seventeen members of the church was formed in 1853, and the lot on which David Squires's house had once stood was purchased of Joseph C. Canning. (Bk. 200, p. 121.)

A dwelling was erected upon the site, and the Church Society gradually acquired possession of the property by purchasing the shares held by the members of the company. This dwelling served the church as a parsonage as long as there was use for it. The new entrance to the center of the town was blocked by the structure when the County Commissioners relocated the highway in 1923, and "The Parsonage" was torn down at that time.

CHURCH PEWS AND TAX ABATEMENTS

The pews in the meetinghouse were ready for occupancy late in the fall of 1804, and the committee appointed to superintend their sale, composed of Job Goodale, Moses Bascom, Jr., and Gilbert Stacy, immediately began to execute deeds to the purchasers. By the terms of the sale the pew became the permanent property of the purchaser, his (or her) heirs and assigns, and the price paid varied according to the location of the pew. Twenty-three sales were recorded by the committee during the month of December 1804, but subsequent transfers by those who were removing from the town or were affiliating with other denominations show that no continuous record was kept.

The first twenty-four deeds recorded were:

1. George Goodrich & Job Goodale, No. 25 Wall, \$40.
2. Ebenezer Chapin & Gilbert Stacy, No. 41 Body, \$46.
3. Moses Munn, No. 11 Gallery, \$20.
4. Noah Munn & Seth Munn, No. 39 Wall, Nos. 14 & 20 Gallery, \$50.
5. Reuben Shattuck, No. 27 Body, \$50.
6. Roswell Warner, No. 17 Gallery, \$20.
7. Samuel Stoughton & Elisha Starkweather, No. 4 Wall, \$50.
8. David Wrisley & Samuel Stoughton, Nos. 2 & 10 Gallery, \$10.
9. Philip Ballard & Henry Ewers, No. 21 Wall, \$42.
10. Roswell Warner & Eldad Munn, No. 18 Wall, \$18.

11. David Wrisley & Ebenezer Field, No. 39 Body & No. 1 Wall, \$50.
12. Elijah Wrisley No. 42 Body, \$40.
13. Ebenezer Field & Polly Hosley, No. 2 Wall, \$50.
14. Samuel Janes & Jonathan J. Hosley, No. 31 Body & No. 6 Wall, \$25.
15. Jeremiah Ballard, Moses Bascom, Jr. & Moses Ballard, Nos. 34 & 49 Body, \$50.
16. Philip Ballard, Jeremiah Ballard & Henry Ewers, No. 9 Gallery, \$10.
17. Moses Bascom, Sr. & Jonathan J. Hosley, No. 38 Body, \$50.
18. Nathaniel Burnett & Jehiel Gains, No. 32 Body, \$20.
19.
20. Daniel Brooks, No. 44 Body, \$30.
21. Samuel Janes & William Webster, No. 12 Wall, \$40.
22. Amaziah Roberts & Dimick Morley, No. 20 Wall, \$50.
23. George Goodrich, Samuel Janes, Amaziah Roberts, Jonathan J. Hosley & Polly Hosley, Nos. 4, 15 & 19 Gallery, \$30.
24. Henry White & William Strickland, No. 17 Wall, \$15.

Other pew-holders within the following ten years were Josiah Parmenter, Jonas Stanhope, William Walker, Asahel Wrisley, William Clark, Joel Spooner, Gershom Starkweather, John Munn, Jr., Asaph Munn, Elijah Severance, Daniel Severance, Moses Guellow, John Guellow, Oliver Root, Josiah Clark, Walter Brown, Ebenezer Slate, Bethuel Slate, Cornelius Allen, and John Merrill.

During the same ten years many severed their connection with the established town church and joined other denominations. The town records show that the following persons were relieved of the church taxes in this period on certifications as members of the Baptist or Methodist Church in Bernardston:

Baptist:	Daniel Brooks, Justus Brooks, Zaccheus Bugbee Amos Burrows, Ezekiel Carey, Joseph Carey, James Day, John Eudy, Fregrace Frazier, Elijah Green, Rufus Lyon, Joel Munn, Roswell Scott, Solomon Scott, Jonas Stanhope, Abiel Stevens, William Walker.
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Methodist:	Jeremiah Andrus, Alvah Ballard, Jacob Bates, John Chase, Lyman Jacobs, Samuel Janes, Jemima Kenney, Stephen Kenney, John Munn, Ebenezer Roberts, Mary Roberts, Joseph Sprague, Elisha Starkweather, Asahel Wrisley, Elijah Wrisley, George Wrisley.
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EARLY MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Five lists naming the early members of the Gill church have been preserved. The earliest bears no date, but it is in the handwriting of the Reverend John Jackson, and is evidently a list of the members of the church at the time of his installation. The other lists are in the handwriting of Deacon Shattuck, and from dates or other indications appear to be lists for the years 1799, 1803, 1804, and 1807.

	1798	1799	1803	1804	1807
1. David Risley	x				
2. Naomi Risley	x	x			
3. Jonathan Sprague	x	x	x	x	x
4. Miriam Sprague	x	x	x	x	x
5. Mary Brooks	x	x	x	x	
6. Elihu Bascom	x				x
7. Moses Bascom	x	x	x	x	
8. Eunice Bascom	x	x			
9. Eleazer Risley	x	x	x	x	x
10. Anna Risley	x	x	x	x	x
11. George Howland	x	x	x	x	x
12. Experience Howland	x	x	x	x	
13. Naomi Howland	x	x	x	x	x
14. Mary Ballard	x	x	x	x	
15. Josiah Parmenter	x	x	x	x	x
16. Eunice Munn	x	x			
17. Ebenezer Field	x	x	x	x	x
18. Eunice Field	x	x	x	x	x
19. Elisha Munn	x	x	x	x	x
20. Philip Ballard	x	x	x	x	x
21. Mary Ballard	x	x	x	x	x
22. John Ewers	x	x	x	x	
23. Hannah Ewers	x	x	x	x	
24. Ithamar Allen	x				
25. Cloe Allen	x				
26. Reuben Shattuck	x	x	x	x	x
27. Ruth Shattuck	x	x	x	x	x
28. Ebenezer Slate	x	x	x	x	x
29. William Walker	x	x	x	x	x
30. Elizabeth Walker	x	x		x	x
31. Naomi Severance	x	x	x	x	x
32. Jeremiah Ballard	x	x	x	x	x
33. Phebe Ballard	x	x	x	x	x
34. Laban Ripley	x	x			
35. John Mawley	x	x	x	x	x
36. Sally Mawley	x	x	x	x	x
37. Saloma Munn	x	x	x	x	x
38. Martha Stebbins	x	x	x		
39. Submit Roberts	x	x	x	x	x
40. Mary Nichols	x	x	x	x	x
41. Asahel Parmenter	x	x			

THE MEETINGHOUSE

	1798	1799	1803	1804	1807
42. Mary Parmenter	x	x			
43. Ely Ripley	x	x			
44. Sary Ripley	x	x			
45. Orela Hollister	x	x	x	x	x
46. Joseph Risley	x	x	x	x	x
47. Mary Risley	x	x	x		
48. Rodolphus Field	x	x	x	x	x
49. Nancy Field	x	x	x	x	x
50. John Jackson	x	x	x	x	x
51. Rebecca Jackson	x	x	x	x	x
52. Wilmot Mayhew	x	x	x		
53. Nancy Mayhew	x	x	x		
54. Shubael Hillman	x	x	x	x	x
55. Samuel Leonard	x	x	x	x	x
56. Charles Richards		x	x		
57. William Richards		x	x		
58. Anna Sprague		x	x	x	x
59. Benjamin Rice		x	x	x	
60. David Ballard		x	x	x	x
61. Wm. Burnet		x			
62. Samuel Luce		x			
63. Cloe Guellow			x	x	x
64. Mrs. Rice			x	x	
65. John Burnet			x		
66. Mrs. Luce			x	x	x
67. Demick Morley			x	x	
68. Ruth Morley			x	x	
69. Mrs. Robbard			x	x	
70. Wid. Sal. Richards			x	x	x
71. George Goodrich			x	x	x
72. Mrs. Goodrich			x	x	x
73. Mrs. Slate			x	x	
74. Job Goodale			x	x	x
75. Lydia Goodale			x	x	x
76. Sally Marsh			x	x	x
77. Mrs. Abigail Hosley			x	x	x
78. Sally Burnet			x		
79. Nath. Burnet			x	x	x
80. Mrs. Burnet			x	x	x
81. Mrs. Ellis				x	
82. Mrs. Moses Scott				x	
83. Moses Ballard				x	x
84. Mrs. Asahel Wrisley				x	x
85. William Bissell					x
86. Charles Williams					x
87. Mrs. Williams					x
88. Joseph Carey					x
89. Mrs. Carey					x
Experience Bascom *					x

* Formerly Experience Howland, No. 12.

EARLY OFFICERS

Treasurers: Reuben Shattuck, 1796-1814; James Gould, 1814-1816; Timothy Stoughton, 1816-1849.

Deacons: Moses Bascom, 1796-1806; Reuben Shattuck, 1796-1814; Philip Ballard, 1806-1819; John Barns, 1814-1819; Shubael Hillman, 1814-1820; Elisha Munn, 1819-1825; Timothy Stoughton, 1819-1849; Dr. William Richards, 1825; Josiah Smith, 1830-1835.

Among others mentioned as deacons, but with no dates of service recorded, were: Asa Flint, Perrin N. Richards, Elijah Green, John Wilder, Willard Lovering, and Ira Stoughton.

EARLY PASTORS

JOHN JACKSON. Reverend John Jackson was born in Petersham, Mass., on July 2, 1771, the son of James and Mary (Duncan) Jackson. He was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1792 and continued his studies for the ministry with Reverend Joel Foster of New Salem and with the Reverend Judah Nash of Montague. He was ordained at Gill on January 10, 1798 as the first pastor of the Gill church, and was dismissed by the church on a point of ecclesiastical ethics on October 10, 1801. He continued to reside in Gill, however, and maintained his membership in the Gill church.

Mr. Jackson's father-in-law, Josiah Rogers, removed from Petersham in 1803 to Stukely, Lower Canada, and Mr. Jackson decided to join his relatives in Canada. He disposed of his Gill property in February 1811, and with his wife and eight children made the trip in a conveyance drawn by a span of horses. According to family tradition he carried the proceeds from the sale of his Gill property, amounting to some 800 dollars, with him in gold in a strong-box. Among other places on the way, he stopped at a tavern in Montpelier, Vt., and after having traveled a considerable distance on the resumption of his journey, discovered to his great dismay that the strong-box with all his funds had been left behind. He immediately turned about and on his arrival at the Montpelier tavern was overjoyed to find that his strong-box had attracted no attention. It was exactly where he had left it, and no one had tampered with it.

Mr. Jackson bought a farm in Stukely, Quebec, but five years later removed to Brome, Quebec, twenty miles distant, where he resumed ministerial work to some extent. He died there on March 18, 1844.

None of Mr. Jackson's sons entered the ministry. A grandson, a son of Horatio Nelson Jackson, was pastor of the Barre, Vt., Congregational Church. Horatio Nelson Jackson's grandson and namesake, Dr. H. Nelson Jackson of Barre, in 1903 made the first transcontinental trip by auto-

mobile from San Francisco to New York. In company with Sewell K. Crocker, he left San Francisco on May 23, 1903 and arrived in New York City sixty-four days later.

George Washington Jackson, son of Reverend John Jackson, became a doctor of medicine and practiced in Brome until his promising career was cut short by untimely death at the age of thirty. Another son, James Madison Jackson, during the "Gold Rush" years, made the trip to California by ship around Cape Horn.

JABEZ MUNSELL. Reverend Munsell was born in Franklin, Conn., in 1772, and like his predecessor was a graduate of Dartmouth College. After obtaining his degree in 1794, he continued his studies for the ministry with the Reverend Dr. Bacchus of Storrs, Conn. He was ordained in the ministry and settled as the second pastor of the Gill church on May 26, 1802. He was dismissed exactly three years later. Mr. Munsell did not continue in the ministry after leaving Gill. He entered the profession of teaching and became a schoolmaster, a work for which he considered he had more aptitude, and conducted schools in New London, Conn., in Kingston, N. Y., in Newbern, N. C., and in Richmond, and Norfolk, Va. He died in Norfolk of cholera on August 1, 1832.

JOSIAH W. CANNING (CANNON). Reverend Josiah Weeks Cannon was the son of Cornelius and Mary (Weeks) Cannon. He was born on February 27, 1780 in New Braintree, Mass., and named Josiah Weeks for his maternal grandfather. He was a descendant of the Scotch-Irish dissenters on his father's side, his great-grandfather, John Cannon, having emigrated to Dartmouth about 1702.

Possessed of a none too robust constitution in youth, he turned to books for entertainment and became a studious lad whose acquaintance at an early age with the classics and English literature inspired an ambition for higher education. The path was not an easy one, as resources were limited and his father was unwilling to assume the burden of further debt. Undiscouraged by the prospect, however, he persevered, and by teaching school and tutoring others, finally gained admission to Williams College in the fall of 1800 as a member of the class of 1803, having obtained his preparation under the able instruction of Ebenezer Smith of New Marlboro, Mass., whose daughter Almira later became Mr. Cannon's wife.

Life at Williams College for students at the beginning of the nineteenth century was a routine vastly different from the present college plan, for education then was gained only by the endurance of ordeals exacting hardships that were physical as well as mental. A glimpse of the college

picture of that day is given in a letter written by Mr. Cannon to his future helpmate, from which the following is quoted:

Williams College Apr. 15, AD 1801.

Respected Friend

I find myself as it were in a new world, surrounded only by objects of my esteem. None tread this literary ground, but such as have, in some degree, refined their minds with education. Here, instead of employing our time & patience in instructing others, we have an opportunity of being instructed & of conversing wholly with such as are in like circumstances.

Here in a class of 26, I find myself, altho' young, the oldest except 2, which naturally gives me some advantages &c. In the morning at 5, we are awakened by the bell, to attend prayers & then directly after prayers our Tutor meets us in the recitation room to hear us recite the lesson gotten the evening before—if any are absent they are called to account. At 11 we are assembled together for recitation again & again at 4. One of the class speaks before the class every noon & one reads composition every morning after recitation, besides 3 of the class speak every Tuesday & Friday evenings & Wednesday in the afternoon before the President & Tutors assembled in the chapel. Here we receive lessons of instruction & friendly advice—pedantry is discarded & gallantry cautioned against. Notwithstanding this, many break over & pay advances to the fair & some attend the balls—but such schollars are generally noticed by the Authority. Should a Tutor find any absent from their rooms in the study hours, they are summoned to meet him to render an excuse. If we are absent from meeting on the Sabbath, the monitor sets us down & we are called to account.

Such, Alma, is a College-life, so exact are our instructors, but with pleasure I pursue it. Time passes imperceptibly away, we have but little pastime or leisure. 'Tis but now & then that I have time to write to a friend, but busy employment does not debar them from my thoughts. I shall probably be in N. marl'h in May vacation at which time I expect to call upon you, till then I subscribe myself.

Yours in esteem

J W Cannon

Mr. Cannon continued to eke out his college expenses by teaching school during vacation times, and after graduation taught for a year in Cornwall, Conn. Although teaching was a profession for which Mr. Cannon had a natural talent and inclination, the school routine became "a fatiguing round of daily duties," as he wrote from Cornwall, and he

began to consider the ministry as a field that would permit broader opportunities of instruction and usefulness. At the end of his year in Cornwall, he decided not to renew the engagement, and in the fall of 1804 began reading for the ministry with the Reverend Asahel Hooker of Goshen, Conn., who in the following June pronounced him fully prepared for ordination. Midsummer in 1805 consequently found Mr. Cannon searching for a possible settlement, and confronted with the problem of deciding whether a pastorate in the city was preferable to one in the country.

From South Britain, Conn., he wrote on July 16, 1805:

"I am preaching half my time in this place & the other half in Bridgewater, a neighboring society constituting a part of New Milford. I preach two Sabbaths in each alternately, and my engagement is for six weeks longer. I am pressed here, beyond measure to yield my assent to stay. I have difficulty to know what to do, or how to dispose of myself. It is not agreeable to my wishes to settle anywhere immediately, much less, at just such places as these. The inhabitants are mostly honest farmers with very little taste or elegance of manners. But they are generally quite wealthy & industrious. The situation of Candidates is somewhat delicate. They can seldom obtain just what establishments as would please them. They are often compelled to take up with such as they can. I think, however, I had rather look around longer, than consent to stay at any of these places, if I can handsomely get away."

To this, his fiancée replied:

"For my own part, I am not so solicitous where, as how, I spend my life; could I be assured of living a life more devoted to God in an obscure village than amidst the splendor of a town, I should choose that situation. Wherever providence is pleased to place me, may I be content, knowing that the most humble situation is far better than I deserve."

After leaving New Britain, Mr. Cannon traveled over several counties in the north of Connecticut and in the south of Massachusetts in search of vacant pastorates, but the approach of winter found him still unlocated and wondering if he perhaps had not been unwise in refusing the chance offered at New Britain, because dire necessity might after all compel him to fall back upon teaching again. The first of November found him in Rowe, Mass., where he had a temporary engagement, pending the decision of a candidate to whom the town had extended a call.

"I am entirely unsettled. A cold winter stares me in the face & I have no provision for the morrow. New England is full of candidates & I almost despair of finding any establishment within its

borders. But providence will order right. I shall sooner or later be wafted to my place of destination."

Mr. Cannon's confidence in the final disposition of providence was not wholly misplaced, for happenings all unknown to him had been transpiring during his journeyings. The Town of Gill had been without a settled pastor since the early part of the year, and Mr. Cannon had been recommended as a desirable candidate. All efforts on the part of the Gill church to locate Mr. Cannon had been in vain until his arrival in Rowe. As soon as his temporary engagement at Rowe was ended, Mr. Cannon proceeded to Gill and his letters best recount what then took place.

Gill, Nov. 23d 1805.

Dear Almira,

I am now in this town. It is situated on the Connecticut River, the next north from Greenfield. It has been but a few years incorporated as a town, but bids fair to become flourishing. They have lately built an elegant meetinghouse. It was completed & dedicated last summer. They are now in pursuit of a minister. During the long time that I was out on business & itinerating about from place to place, the people in this town heard of me & used some measure to obtain me. They authorized Mr. Blodgett of Greenwich to engage me, but I was riding & he knew not where I was. He however wrote & sent on a letter after me which reached me two weeks ago. I was then supplying at Rowe & had another Sabbath to spend. After that was past, I came to this place. They hired me for two sabbaths, one of them is past, the other yet to come. But while this people were waiting for me, there happened among them a candidate by the name of Garvin. They engaged him conditionally, to stay till I came. He accordingly did & is now sick in this town. The affections of the people, I find, are somewhat divided between him & me. So much so, that they are purposing soon to call a town meeting to decide which of us shall tarry & supply upon probation. This is a disagreeable situation to be in, but it is unavoidable. Since I have been here I have had two applications from destitute societies to supply them. One is Rowe, where I have been supplying; the other, Guilford in Vermont, upon the west bank of the Connecticut. As I felt myself obligated most to the people of Rowe, I engaged to supply them for four weeks, after next sabbath. The people in Gill, have accordingly engaged Mr. Garvin to preach 3 sabbaths while I am at Rowe, & during this time, the matter will be decided by the people, between Him & me. My affections are placed upon Gill; but there is a liability that they will be disappointed.

The situation of Rowe, I think I informed you in my last letter. If I did not, however, I will state it to you, briefly as possible. It is an inland town, hemmed in by enormous mountains. It is difficult getting to it, or out of it. The people are mostly industrious farmers. They will give a minister a decent support, perhaps better than in Gill. They have given a young man a call to settle, who has also, an invitation at Nettick in the vicinity of Boston. They have been waiting for his answer 6 weeks, & have got out of patience. Many people in the town are determined not to settle him if he returns. They employed me three sabbaths, before I came here, merely to supply the desk till he returned. They now wish me to come back upon probation for settlement. If I fail in Gill, I suppose the door will be open at Rowe, for a settlement immediately. I know not what to do should they press me to continue at Rowe. N. England is full of Candidates. Every large Flourishing vacancy is taken up. If I fail at Gill, I must take up with Rowe, or seek a situation in the new countries west. A candidate, my dear, must do as he can, not as he would. This I have found, by mournful experience. Guilford is a large town, but extremely broken by sectarians & disorganizers. They have quarreled away three good ministers & I dare not venture among them. My continuance at Rowe will be four weeks. I shall go there immediately after next sabbath. I would write many things, but I have not the time.

J. W. Cannon

Mr. Cannon accordingly returned to Rowe to fulfill the engagement for four weeks, and from that place wrote:

Rowe, Dec. 21st, 1805

Dear Almira,

The people of Gill have decided, & I am at present, the man of their choice. They have sent to me, since I have been here, to come to supply them 10 sabbaths on probation for settlement. To this measure, I have agreed. The situation at Gill, I have already described. One sabbath more will complete my engagement at Rowe. For the future, I desire you would direct your letters to Gill, by way of the Greenfield post-office.

In your prayers, my dear, remember me. Let me have the satisfaction, every morning, to reflect that my ejaculations are intermingling with yours at the throne of grace.

Yours affectionately,

J. W. Cannon.

During his probationary preaching at Gill, Mr. Cannon was advised of a vacancy at Farmington, Conn., which some of his friends strongly urged him to accept. Had the opportunity come when Mr. Cannon first began candidating at New Britain, his ambitions would probably have led him to Farmington, but his outlook, gained from the test of experience, had undergone a considerable change in the meantime.

Gill, Feby. 25th 1806

My Dear Almira,

I am still in Gill. The next sabbath closes my engagement on probation. The subject of a call will be attended to on the day following. I have gone thus far, my dear, & still am undecided. I know not what is duty, or whether I have done wisely in suffering them to proceed so far in a prospect of settling. I cannot decide till I see & converse with my friends. I apprehend, however, for my own comfort, a situation like this is vastly preferable to that of Farmington. Living is there very expensive, the throng of company great, the necessity of much study, on account of the literary characters of the place, very urgent, & opportunity very little. Parochial duties would also be very hard among so large & numerous a people as that. Mr. Washburn has worn himself out, you see, in the prime of life, & his family are left in a miserable state of want. I find ministers think differently respecting the situation of a clergyman in populous towns, from what those do who are not practically acquainted with the profession. I think differently indeed myself, from what I did when I saw you last. I am sincerely obliged to your brother for his kind endeavors to place me in Farmington, altho, I have fears about undertaking. At Gill I am retired. I have as little interruption as I could wish. I have opportunity to improve in my profession as fast as my mind will permit. My parochial duties will be small, & my parishioners, plain, honest farmers. My salary will probably be 400\$, which will certainly be better here than 700\$ in Farmington or Berlin.

With Unaltered affection, yours,

J. W. C - - - n.

Early in March, at the conclusion of his period of probation, a call was extended him to settle as pastor over the Gill church, and he was accorded two months in which to consider the matter and return his decision. During this time he visited his friends in Connecticut, and talked the matter over with his fiancée, to whom he wrote on his return:

Gill, May 16th 1806

Dear Almira,

I have been home a fortnight. I have delayed writing, because I had not answered the people, till this week. I have been proposing some alterations in the conditions of support, so that it was necessary for the town to warn a meeting and accept or reject the conditions before I could answer them. The conditions were accepted by the town & I have answered them in the affirmative. So that now, Almira, the die is cast. Providence seems to have been raising me up & preparing me by various trials to settle in this place. My ambition is not gratified; but duty, I think calls me to stay. Every accommodation or alteration which I have proposed, has been cheerfully complied with by the people, so that there remains now no means of escape. I must stay & may God of his infinite mercy, afford me his cheering & transporting presence.

Yours affectionately,

J. W. Cannon

In the following month Mr. Cannon was duly installed as pastor of the Gill church, and in September he and Miss Almira Smith were united in marriage. Mrs. Cannon was a native of New Marlboro, Mass., the daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Deane) Smith, her mother being a sister of Silas Deane who was a member of the Continental Congress.

The following is quoted from "Western Massachusetts" by Josiah G. Holland:

"And here it is pleasant to record the virtues of one so recently gone, while they are yet fresh in memory. Mr. Canning was a fine scholar, and in former years, was accustomed to have his study filled with young men fitting for college, or for the various professions, many of whom have risen to prominence. His dignity and modesty, always prominent traits in his character, did not exceed his worth as a man, his purity as a christian, or his devotedness as a minister of the gospel."

The following is from the address given by the Reverend Frank P. Chapin at the Gill Centennial, 1893:

"I used to hear persons express wonder that a man of Mr. Canning's ability as a writer and preacher should have shut himself up, as some said, in so small a town, when he might have filled a much larger and more important place. But who knows what town, parish or person in the largest, most influential and important in a moral and religious view as God may see fit to use them. I have been told that Mr. Canning, nearly eighty years ago, while exchanging with a

neighboring minister, found a young man preparing for college in the minister's family, as was customary then. The young man had become a convert to some false doctrine which would have unfitted him for the work in which he was afterwards eminently distinguished,

"Mr. Cannon (for this was before the family had adopted the name of Canning) and the young man talked upon the doctrine in question all of Saturday evening without coming to any agreement, but having brought a sermon with him on that very subject, he preached it with such success that the young man was convinced of his error, and said, 'that minister from Gill is indeed a Cannon, for with one shot he has carried away all my false views of that subject.'

"That young man was Jonas King, afterwards the noted missionary in Greece for nearly forty years, who was more instrumental probably than any other man in shaping modern schools and education in that country, of whom Chamber's Encyclopedia says 'Greece has paid many tributes to his worth and service, and will yet show their larger results.'

"It may be that our old pastor by his influence upon and through Jonas King did more for religion, education and the world, and will continue to do so in ever widening circles and results, than many occupying larger and seemingly more important places."

The following is from the address of Josiah D. Canning at the dedication of the town hall in 1868:

"The good, old 'gentleman, all of the oldentime, who married your young and buried your dead, and broke to you the 'bread of Life' for nearly half a century."

JAMES SANFORD. Reverend James Sanford was born in Berkley, Mass., on May 7, 1786, and was graduated from Brown College in 1812. He prepared for the ministry under the direction of the Reverend Jonathan Burr of Sandwich, and obtained pastorates at Fabius and at Oxbow, both in the State of New York. He came to Gill in the fall of 1829 with a letter of introduction from the Reverend Richard S. Storrs of Braintree, and on his acceptance of the call from the church was installed as its fourth pastor on December 27, 1829. He was dismissed at his own request in the spring of 1831 that he might accept a call to the church in Holland, Mass., where he rendered successful and highly satisfactory service for sixteen years, resigning, much to the regret of his parishioners, in 1847. He then returned to Oxbow, N.Y., where he resided at the time of his death.

WILLIAM MILLER. Reverend William Miller, a native of New Braintree, Mass., was born on August 8, 1817 the son of Comfort and Polly

(Dane) Miller. He attended Wilbraham Academy, was graduated from Amherst College in 1842, and then studied for the ministry at both Hartford and Andover seminaries, graduating from the latter in 1845. He was ordained at Halifax, Vt., on October 1, 1845, and preached there for the following two years. When Mr. Canning's health required an assistant to take care of the church, the young minister in Halifax, who hailed from Mr. Canning's native town, was invited to come to Gill, where after serving for two years as Mr. Canning's colleague, he was installed as pastor on February 21, 1849. Mr. Miller resigned in the following year to accept the principalship of a school in Dennyville, Me., and taught there and in North Brookfield, Mass., for the following five years. He returned to the ministry in 1855, and for three years filled a pastorate in Sterling, Mass. Previous to his death on August 14, 1895 in New Britain, Conn., he had preached in many Connecticut parishes, one of them in Killingworth where he remained for ten years.

Chapter 7

THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THE FIRST INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY

As early as 1799 a small number of Methodists in Gill had banded together and were holding meetings, although there was no particular organization. In 1803 they joined with the Methodists in Bernardston in forming a society under the Whitingham circuit, with a combined membership of thirteen. In 1827 the members from Gill withdrew and organized a separate society. A plat of land was purchased from Smith Hodges for \$42, and upon it a church was erected. The deed, dated February 22, 1828, given by Mr. Hodges to the "Proprietors in the Methodist Episcopal & First Independent Congregational Societies in Gill, so-called, who have erected a house of public worship on the same, myself being one," is of some interest and a portion is quoted as follows:

"The aforesaid described premises shall be for the benefit of the Proprietors in the aforesaid Societies and shall be held as common Land for the accommodations of the same, said societies shall have an equal occupancy of the same, reference being had to an article of agreement between said Societies. If at any time said Land shall be unoccupied for the within mentioned purposes, said Proprietors shall deed back to Smith Hodges, his heirs or assigns, one acre & ten rods from the north end of the aforesaid premises, the south line to run from the road across to the west line of the above mentioned premises and parallel with the north line of sd Hodges by his heirs or assigns refunding back to Elijah Hayden, Roswell Purple, John Chase, Samuel G. Chapin, Alvah Ballard, Ozias Roberts, Josiah Clark, Samuel Stratton, Alanson Roberts, Samuel Janes, Sylvanus M. Janes & Alfred Goodrich the sum of twenty-one dollars & twenty-five cents to be divided between the above named persons, reference being had to the Record of a subscription paper of the aforementioned persons in the said Societies Book of Records."

In the presence of

May Purple
Rebecca Hodges

Smith Hodges
Sarah Hodges

The fulfillment of the foregoing provisions by the heirs or assigns of the contracting parties some one-hundred years later, when the church disbanded and the property was sold, might easily have presented a legal problem as difficult as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. The record book of the Society has been lost and consequently no information can be gleaned concerning the agreement or the subscription list to which reference was to be made.



Methodist Church (off Boyle Road), early 1900's.

In 1903 the Methodist Church celebrated its centennial anniversary with appropriate exercises, some eighty-eight pastors having presided over the church up to that time, and the following were some of the early incumbents: John Nixon, Alexander Hulin, Elisha Andrews, John B. Husted, F. W. Sizer, James C. Bontecou, William Todd, O. E. Bosworth, Windsor Ward, Horace Moulton, E. P. Stevens, Daniel Bannister, William Kimball, Charles Hayward, William Wilcutt, Lyman Wing, Asa Niles, Culver S. Heath, Philo Hawks, John Tate, William Gordon, David Todd, Ichabod Marcy, John Ricketts, Charles Barnes, Moses Stoddard, Leonard Frost, Jarvis Wilson, Solomon Cushman, and Horace Smith.

The largest membership of the church was sixty-six in 1879 during the pastorate of Reverend C. N. Merrifield. Changing conditions during the ensuing fifty years, however, reduced attendance until support of the church was no longer possible. The Society was dissolved, the property sold, and the church building has been remodeled to make an attractive dwelling.

1803-1903

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

of the

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GILL, MASS.

October 7, 1903

Program

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| 10:00 A.M. | Organ Voluntary
Hymn 248
Psalm 23 repeated in concert
Scripture Lesson
Prayer
Music | Rev. F. H. Wheeler
Rev. C. N. Merrifield |
| 10:30 A.M. | Address of Welcome and Historical
Reminiscence | Rev. W. H. Adams |
| 11:00 A.M. | Response
Hymn 331 | Rev. James Sutherland |
| 11:20 A.M. | Address—A Century of Methodism
Hymn 1066 | Rev. J. W. Stephan |
| 12:30 P.M. | Dinner | |

2:00 P.M.	Organ Voluntary Hymn 438 Scripture Lesson Prayer Music Addresses by former Pastors Hymn 518	Rev. Plumb Rev. W. B. Heath
3:00 P.M.	Address Hymn 797 Benediction	Presiding Elder W. G. Richardson

Aside from the fact that the First Independent Congregational Society was designated as an equal shareholder in the church and property of the Methodist Society in the deed of conveyance from Smith Hodges, nothing further has been learned concerning its history. It probably was composed of a few who were at odds with the Reverend Josiah W. Cannon, and may have presented one of the considerations that led to his resignation in the following year. With his departure, the reasons for the society's existence undoubtedly vanished.

Chapter 8

THE SHAD FISHERIES

The fisher's fire is out ashore;
The bellying seine is drawn no more;
No more appears when hauled to land,
The silver winrow on the sand;
No more at drowning death they mock
On Burnham's danger-girted rock;
For all is changed; old scenes are past,
And fading from man's memory fast.

Since Art and Commerce rule our river,
Gone are our finny stores forever;
Untrammel'd Nature brings no more
This bounty to our storied shore.
In vain ye look, ye watchful wishers!
Gone, and for aye, are fish and fishers!

Josiah D. Canning

Reference has already been made to the fact that the upper inlets of the Connecticut River at one time furnished favorite spawning grounds for shad and salmon. At spawning time in the spring of each year, these fish swam northward from the tropics, when the rivers were pouring their spring floods into the ocean, and scenting these discharges of fresh water, the fish turned into the tributaries in succession as they reached them. Before the construction of dams blocked the river, the shad and salmon found the Connecticut easily accessible until they encountered the natural falls between the present towns of Montague and Gill.

At this point the fish were compelled to scale the swift descent of rapids in a narrow cut through jagged rocks some 400 yards long between the Gill river-bank and the island, and although vast numbers were able to surmount the barrier, the water at the foot of the falls was crowded with smaller fish unable to make the ascent. Tradition tells that one fisherman actually crossed to the island supported by fish, so densely were they packed together.

Annually when the delicate blossoms of the shad-tree burst into bloom, a signal to the settlers as it had been to the Indians before them

that fishing time had arrived, crowds of fishermen took up chosen spots along the river's course. The farmers from the surrounding towns came too, with carts and wagons, to purchase from the fishermen, for the fishing to the fishermen was a livelihood as well as sport, and to the farmer it was the source of his supply of staple food. The towns along the river often set the exact prices at which the fish was to be sold, the price generally being two cents for the average size, or three cents for the extra large. The fish were piled up on the shore in stacks like haystacks, and the farmers carried them away by cart loads to salt and dry for storage. So common was shad in those early days that it came to be dubbed "Gill Pork," and many a good housewife, surprised by unexpected guests when shad was being cooked for the family meal, dumped the fish over the backlog rather than serve the visitors so ordinary an article of food. Frequently contracts made between a farmer and his hired man stipulated that the man should not be given shad to eat above a certain number of times per week.

The fish were caught with seines and with scoop nets. The upstream projection from Great Island that formed the western head of the cataract ended in a long, flat rock exposed above the surface of the water just before the rapids began the initial plunge. This was a splendid location for the venturesome, and over 5,000 shad have been reported as the average catch for a day from this rock, "Burnham's Rock" so-called. Frequently salmon weighing 20 to 30 pounds also enlivened the catch.

Nearly opposite at a higher level, "Foster's Rock" jutted out over the cataract from the Gill shore. He who possessed the advantages of either of these locations was the envy of all other scoopnet fishermen. But woe to him who lost his footing or his balance on these rocks and was engulfed in the roaring rush of water through the cataract.

Almost anyone who possessed a seine could net quantities of shad along the banks of the river, and at the mouth of Unadilla Brook, fish could be seined abundantly.

Crowds of people also gathered at the "Fishing Falls," led on by idle curiosity to watch the activities until, as time went on, the occasion developed into something like a carnival. The celebration reached a climax on Election Day held the last Wednesday in the month of May, when all classes from the countryside came together—the gentry and the paupers; the deacons and the dissolute; the dandies and the rustics; all bent upon a holiday. Old-time games were played; there were wrestling matches, races, and feats of strength. There were stands for the sale of candy, gingerbread, and other sweets, as well as lemonade and many kinds of flips, both mixed and unadulterated. There were booths with catch-penny attractions to draw a crowd. In later years there also was dancing

"on the green," but the surface of the sod soon wore down to mother earth, and many a winsome lass who came "pretty as a picture went home black as any Hottentot."

Occasionally the Governor of the Commonwealth graced the festivities, and on such occasions there was much vying among the townsmen over the honor of entertaining His Excellency. Basket lunches were always served on Election Day, and the story has been handed down in one family that relates how the wife of the gentleman who once had the distinction of being host to the Governor spent much time cooking the very choicest viands among her receipts, and prepared the lunch with meticulous care. When the host with elaborate formality uncovered the basket before the Governor, the astonished guest gazed upon an offering of cornbread and cold meat, the host in the hurry and confusion of departure having snatched up the hired-man's basket by mistake.

Gone many a year are the shad and the fishers of shad, and the old Election Day celebrations did not survive them long. Yes, the shad are gone, yet each returning spring revives their memory when the shad-trees bloom along the river banks. Bending beneath their weight of blossoms, the trees lean over the stream, peering in vain into the water below for a glimpse of the vanished shad. And yet, perhaps their annual vigil shall be rewarded, for at long last the construction of fish-ways over the obstructing dams has been undertaken. (In 1941.)

Chapter 9

BURNHAM'S ROCK

Shrouded in spray, our side the flood,
A ragged, rocky island stood;
Fixed in sub-aqueous ledges fast
The dizzy waters whirling past.
This rock was fisher Burnham's claim;
Floods may not wash away his name,
Tho' rock and master both went under.

Josiah D. Canning

Burnham's Rock, the most coveted fishing place here, was an irregular area over 100 feet long, but due to its dangerous position on the brink of the cataract, attempts to reach it were made only by the most expert of the water-wise. Several lives were lost by fishermen who ventured there before the full extent of its treacherous possibilities were realized.

Peter Ryther of Bernardston lost his life there on May 24, 1771 at the age of twenty-two, and the tragedy has been commemorated by Josiah D. Canning in his poem, "The Shad-Fishers," in the concluding digression about Luman and Lucy, "The Lily of the Vale." Jonathan Hale, also of Bernardston, was another victim, drowned in May 1789, leaving a widow and five small children. Old Elisha Tilden was more fortunate, for when engulfed by the cataract, he loudly demanded "Gallows claim thine own!" and was miraculously preserved, though there is no record that he ever fulfilled his part of the contract as one, who meant for hanging, could not be drowned. Tilden, so far as is known, was the only man who ever passed through the cataract and lived to tell the tale.

Josiah Burnham from Montague appears to have been the man who finally devised a method of mastering the dangers, and the rock was named "Burnham's Rock" in consequence. For many years it offered the finest fishing location, with no record of any fatalities among the company of fishermen who made use of it.

In the beginning there seems to have been cooperation instead of competition in the possession of favorable locations for fishing during the shad-run, but as soon as the adjacent lands had been taken up by a considerable number of settlers, attempts to restrict the freedom of fish-

ing were begun. The fishermen from this immediate vicinity claimed preference over those who came from the neighboring towns. On December 6, 1773 it was voted at a Greenfield town meeting that a committee "petition the General Court for the benefit of the Fishing Falls by (i.e. near) Ensign Childs." The town records give no information as to what resulted, and no further action was taken until May 11, 1789, when it was voted that "the Selectmen be a committee to secure the Fishery at y^e Falls between Montague & Greenfield or act as they think proper Respecting s^d Fishery." The matter probably was given particular attention at that time because fishermen were banding together, and as a company were appropriating the vantage points. Three years later the matter again came to the front, when a company headed by William Smalley petitioned the Commonwealth for the exclusive rights to Burnham's Rock.

William Smalley had become owner in November 1788 of the farm that once belonged to Captain Timothy Childs. Mr. Smalley was a man of considerable influence and prominence, and was called "Gentleman" in the records, and given the title of "Esquire." It was natural that he, as the most important member of the company, should be selected to head the petition.

The Commonwealth, however, on February 6, 1792 commissioned Samuel Henshaw, Esquire, as its agent to sell Burnham's Rock, which put the fishing privilege at this spot on the auction block, as it were. Greenfield called a special town meeting on April 2, 1792 to see if the town would make the purchase, but adjourned the meeting for reasons not stated in the record until May 7 when it was voted "Not to purchase Burnham's Rock."

The petitioners themselves must have made the highest offer for Samuel Henshaw, acting in behalf of the Commonwealth, on October 1, 1792 sold Burnham's Rock to William Smalley and his associates, as witnessed by the following deed (Bk. 6, p. 44.):

WHEREAS William Smalley and others have represented to the Grand Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that they have carried on the salmon & shad fishing on an Island or Rock in Connecticut River called Burnham Rock—that they have always claimed by virtue of their first discovery & experiment the exclusive right of fishing there—but having lately been informed that the said Island or Rock being in a navigable River is the property of said Commonwealth they pray that the Court would be pleased to grant them the exclusive Right of the said fishing at the Rock afore-said—and

WHEREAS the said General Court by their Resolution of the sixth day of February last did authorize & empower Samuel Henshaw, Esq., to sell the said Rock or Island called Burnham Rock lying in the Connecticut river between the towns of Greenfield & Montague in the County of Hampshire—

NOW know ye that I the said Samuel Henshaw in consideration of a promisory note of Hand signed by William Smalley & Moses Arms for the sum of one hundred & fifty pounds lawful money to me delivered & made payable to William Pynchon, Esq., Treasurer of said County of Hampshire or to his successor in that office for the use of said County have sold, conveyed & confirmed & by these presents do sell, convey & confirm in behalf of said Commonwealth of Massachusetts unto William Smalley, Esq., Moses Arms, Gentleman, Solomon Smead, Gentleman, Philip Ballard, yeoman, Jeremiah Ballard, yeoman, all of Greenfield in the county of Hampshire & Josiah Burnham, Henry Ewers & Moses Burnham, yeoman, all of Montague in said County & David Smalley of Guilford in the County of Windham & State of Vermont, yeoman, & their heirs & Assigns forever, the aforesaid Rock Island called "Burnham Rock" lying in Connecticut river between the towns of Montague & Greenfield, beginning at the northeast corner of Burnham's Rock, called the "boiling place" & running on said Rock northwest two rods, thence running on said Rock west ten degrees south eight rods, thence running south on said Rock six rods, thence running on said Rock to the first mentioned corner.

On March 20, 1794, Dr. Polycarpus Cushman of Bernardston became associated with the foregoing nine proprietors, who sold him a one-tenth interest. (Bk. 8, p. 393.) By a quitclaim deed from these ten owners dated November 21, 1795, John Williams, Esquire, of Deerfield acquired title to the rock (Bk. 11, p. 271.) Two years later, Mr. Williams sold Burnham's Rock to the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal, whose successor, the Quinnehtuk Company, is presumably the present owner. (Bk. 11, p. 236.) Construction of the various dams across the river, however, have almost obliterated Burnham's Rock, and what is left of it lies buried deep in the backwash of the present dam.

In 1795 William Smalley sold his farm to Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck, who by the purchase also appears to have acquired Mr. Smalley's interest in Burnham's Rock. Among Lieutenant Shattuck's private papers was one labeled:

the account of the Company on Burnam Rock

Philip Ballard	Received	4 -	2 -	0
Jeremiah Ballard		6 -	2 -	4
Henry Ewers		5 -	5 -	0
Jacob Bates		2 -	10 -	0
Neland Carrer		0 -	18 -	0
Lt. Burnam		0 -	15 -	0
Reuben Shattuck		1 -	4 -	11
		<hr/>		
		20 -	17 -	3*

The paper bears no date, and contains several other similar compilations. Evidently a division of profits to the members of the company is set forth.

When "Great Island" was annexed to the Town of Gill by an Act of Legislation in the year 1805, one of the purposes of the act was to regulate the "fishery at and near the same." By the Act, "Gill was to have the full and exclusive right of taking fish" in the locality, under the management of a committee to be chosen annually by the town. The benefits of the Act gradually disappeared, however, when construction of dams farther down the river presented an insurmountable barrier to the shad and salmon, and only in such years as these dams were swept away by flood water, were shad and salmon again seined or speared in this vicinity.

The earliest transaction involving Burnham's Rock appears in a deed dated February 15, 1792, wherein Nathaniel Nichols conveyed to his brother-in-law, Jeremiah Ballard, Burnham's Rock (so the deed is worded) for the consideration of 40 pounds. (Bk. 4, p. 339.) Mr. Nichols evidently was one of the original company that had appropriated Burnham's Rock, and the deed was intended to convey his "rights and interests in Burnham's Rock" to Mr. Ballard, who thereafter became one of the company.

In addition to those who held Burnham's Rock, there were other companies at vantage points where privileges had been obtained by them. One of these was the so-called "Strickland Fish Place" at the foot of the cataract by "Corse's Rock," blasted out of the channel many years ago as an obstacle in the path of the log drives. This fishing place was sold to a company in 1793 by George Grennell as part of the "Common and Undivided Land" purchased by him from the Deerfield Proprietors, as per his deed of conveyance:

*Ed. Note: Totals are from left to right pounds, shillings, and pence.

Know all men by these presents that I, George Grennell of Greenfield in the County of Hampshire & Commonwealth of Massachusetts, yeoman, in consideration of twelve pounds paid by John Strickland Jr., Jonathan Atherton, David Strickland, Ashur Newton, Thomas Whitmore, Medad Hastings, Elias Johnson, Joanna Allen, widow, all of Greenfield, Stephen Webster, Joseph Atherton, Arad Sheldon, Moses Scott, Zebediah Slate, Elias Parmenter, all of Bernardston 1/2 acre bounded on the west by the Channel of Connecticut River between the Great Island, so-called, and the eastern bank of sd river, running to a willow shrub about one rod south of Corse's Rock.

24 Apr. 1793

GEORGE GRENELL

Witnessed by:

John Williams

Richard Williams

(Bk. 11, p. 574.)

Eight years later, after the death of his widow, the heirs of David Allen sold their interests in the Strickland Company to Samuel Hale:

Know all men by these presents that we, Heirs to the estate of David Allen late of Greenfield, County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, deceased, for divers good causes and Considerations, we thereunto moving, and officially for the sum of Ten Dollars, have received to our full satisfaction of Samuel Hale of Bernardston, County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Carpenter all such right and title as we have or ought to have in and unto a certain Fish place known by the name of Strickland's fish place in Greenfield Falls, so-called, which is in the town of Gill.

16 Oct. 1801

Witnessed by:

Moses Bascom

Elihu Allen

Solo. Smead

Henry Dana

Oliver Atherton

Joanna Dewey

Salah Allen

Eli Abbott

Mary Abbott

Joseph Marshal

Abigail Marshal

(Bk. 15, p. 462.)

In 1820 Samuel Hale bought up the rights to Strickland's Fish Place held by the other shareholders. (Bk. 49, p. 163.) He then conveyed the

property to the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal, engaged in constructing at that time the second dam.

Know all men by these presents that I Samuel Hale of Gill in the County of Franklin and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of two hundred and eleven dollars to me in hand paid by the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal formerly in the County of Hampshire, now in the County of Franklin all right, title and interest which I now have or may have hereafter in and to the following described rights or sheares in the fishing Ground, so-called, at the Great Falls in Connecticut River between the towns of Gill and Montague, together with the several and respective rights in the buildings adjacent to said Fishing Ground and connected with & owned by the former Proprietors of said fishing rights or shears, to wit, one Shear which I purchased of the heirs of David Allen, one sheare formerly owned by Joseph Atherton, one Shear lately owned by George Parmenter, two Shars lately owned by Israel Slate, one Share lately owned by George Alexander, one Shear lately owned by Stephen Webster, one Shear lately owned by Walter Brown, one Shear lately owned by Moses Scott, one Shear lately owned by the fishing company at large called the Strickland right, four Shears lately owned by Moses Arms, two Shears lately owned by Gideon Ryther, one Shear lately owned by Samuel Root and one Shear lately owned by David Strickland. Reserving however to myself, heirs & assigns the right of fishing below the new dam now erecting across said River so as not to molest, hinder or disturb the proprietors of said Locks and Canal in operating or executing any works at or about said falls at any time and manner they shall choose.

12 Dec. 1820.

SAMUEL HALE

Witnessed by:

Noah Munn

Hooker Leavitt

(Bk. 47, p. 88.)

Another company also evidently operated at a location not definitely designated.

Know all men by these presents that we Samuel Pickett and Julia Smead, both of Greenfield, County of Franklin and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Esquires, Benjamin Hosley, Joseph Sprague and

Solomon Mallard all of Gill in s^d County & Commonwealth, yeomen, in consideration of Ninety Dollars to us paid by the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal on Connecticut River all our Title, claim and demand in and unto our joint and respective rights & privileges in the Fishing Ground near the dam at the Great Falls, so-called, and in the buildings erected by the Fishing Company near s^d Fishing Ground, and likewise to the Fishing Utensiles belonging to s^d Company which now remain on s^d ground.

3 June 1822

Witnessed by:

Daniel Wells	Samuel Pickett
Alanson Clarke	Joseph Sprague
H. Leavitt	Solomon Mallard
H. N. Chandler	Benjamin Hosley
	Julia Smead

(Bk. 49, p. 270.)

Chapter 10

CANALS AND RIVER TRAFFIC

Problems of transportation have occupied the minds of men from the earliest of times, and rivers have always been looked upon as arteries of communication. The warm seasons of the year permitted the use of water-borne craft, and in winter the frozen surfaces offered unimposed trails. In such ways the Indian made use of the water courses in pursuit of peace or war, and to the first settlers in the Connecticut Valley, the river offered the principal line of intercourse between the settlements.

As the villages along the Connecticut River increased in number and size, the transportation demands proportionately grew heavier, a condition that became particularly acute in the years following the close of the Revolutionary War. Traffic by ox-team over the rough trails beside the river was a slow and tedious procedure, and the settlers turned to the river as the easiest and the most natural means of direct communication with the outside world.

Uninterrupted travel on the river, however, was prevented by several waterfalls, and the "Great Falls" in the river here provided a definite obstacle. Laden boats or rafts coming down the river had to be beached at the "Unloading Place" on the "Great Sand Bar" that extended along the Montague shore from above the ferry point almost to the brink of the falls. Freight and the boat or dismantled raft were then carted to the "Rafting Place" on a smaller sand bar below the falls close to the site on which the Russell Cutlery was later located, and after being reloaded, or reassembled and loaded, again resumed the journey down the river.

David Ballard sold Captain Elisha Mack some land "on Connecticut river at the great Falls," on August 4, 1790, and the deed (Springfield, Bk. 23, p. 136.) stated that it included "all between the river and the road that they now cart lumber by the falls in."

As a solution to the problem of doing away with the enforced unloading and reloading, the construction of canals around these unnavigable points was advocated to make a continuous voyage to or from the sea possible. Such a proposition, however, was pioneer work; a big undertaking with no like construction in the country to guide the builders. In addition to the canals, the channels for which in places had to be hewn through solid rock, it was necessary at each waterfall to erect a dam across the river to maintain water supply for the canals. Altogether, the enter-

prise was a courageous venture in behalf of public utility, and the actual difficulties that finally were surmounted considerably exceeded the trouble anticipated by the promoters.

The first charter was taken out in 1791 by a "Company for Rendering the Connecticut River Navigable at Bellows Falls" in Vermont, but the construction took eleven years, and it was the third canal to start operations when the first boat passed through it in August 1802.

The second charter was granted on February 23, 1792 by the Massachusetts General Court (Acts of 1791, Chapter 32) "for the purpose of Rendering Connecticut River Passable for Boats and other things from the mouth of Chickapee River northward throughout the Commonwealth," and by this Act "The Proprietors of the Locks and Canals on the Connecticut River" were authorized to:

"erect, keep up & forever maintain such Dams, Canals & Locks between the mouth of Chickapee river, so called, in Springfield & the mouth of Stoney Brook, so called, in South Hadley, & between the mouth of Deerfield river, so called, and the head of Miller's falls, so called in Connecticut River, as that rafts and floats of timber not exceeding twenty feet in width or sixty feet in length, may pass securely down & that Boats and other Craft usually made use of for transporting goods in Connecticut river aforesaid may pass securely up and down between the places above mentioned at all seasons of the year when other parts of said river are passable up and down."

By this charter, the Proprietors were empowered to take all or any measures necessary to make two sections of the Connecticut River safe for navigation: one section began at the mouth of the Chicopee River and continued northward to include the falls at South Hadley; the other section extended from the mouth of the Deerfield River to the "head of Miller's falls in Connecticut river," which was the exact description used in the early records of the Proprietors of Deerfield to designate the rapids, or fall of water, in the Connecticut below French King at the mouth of Millers River. Before the Connecticut could be made navigable "northward throughout the Commonwealth" these rapids at French King had to be eliminated and the Charter authorized the construction of dams and canals between the mouth of the Deerfield River and the head of the French King rapids, otherwise known as "Miller's Falls."

The financial promoters of the enterprise were not particularly acquainted with the locality, and assumed that Miller's Falls was "Great Falls," the biggest obstacle to be overcome. Because of this confusion, Great Falls was referred to as "Miller's Falls" in all their records of proceedings, a name not previously applied to Great Falls. The fact that one of the first plans proposed was the building of a dam across the Connec-

ticut below the mouth of Millers River, with a canal from that point through Millers plain to the mouth of the Deerfield River, is evidence that local engineers did not consider "Miller's Falls" to designate "Great Falls." Otherwise, this proposed route would have been outside the limits specified in the Charter.

The preliminary surveys for possible channels by which the project might be accomplished were made by Christopher Colley, an eminent engineer of that day. Entries in his diary show that after completing the surveys at South Hadley, he came to "Miller's" on July 3, 1792. Under the guidance of Captain Elisha Mack of Montague, Mr. Colley viewed a number of routes that would eliminate the cataract at the Fishing Falls and the treacherous rapids around Smead's Island. One of these was a route across Miller's plain by way of "Great Pond," later named "Lake Pleasant."

A route at first given serious consideration was the construction of a short canal around Great Falls. This required the construction of a dam not only at Great Island, but also the building of one at the foot of the rapids around Smead's Island to provide slack water at that place and also raise the river level enough to make it navigable from the lower end of the proposed canal. An attempt to build a dam at Smead's Island was made in 1793 by Captain Mack, but the depth of the water encountered proved too great, and the undertaking was consequently abandoned.

Eventually, the most feasible plan was decided to be the construction of a canal from the headwaters of Great Falls to a point just above the mouth of the Deerfield River, a distance of approximately two and a half miles. Damming the cataract between Great Island and the Gill shore, however, was a necessary accomplishment before a constant supply of water for the canal could be assured. This was the biggest engineering problem that confronted the company, and the possibility of its achievement had to be demonstrated before any work on the canal itself could be undertaken.

The first work on the canal projects as a whole was begun at South Hadley, and was in full swing during the summer of 1793. In anticipation, the following advertisement had been published in both the Northampton "Hampshire Gazette" and the Greenfield "Impartial Intelligencer."

The Proprietors of Locks and Canals in Connecticut river want to supply 22 Carpenters and 75 Labourers for six months the ensuing season, to begin operations about the 20th of April next. All persons who wish to engage in a work of such public utility, may be assured of good wages in Cash, and are requested to call on either of the subscribers, who are authorized to make contract for that purpose.

Jonathan Dwight	}	Directors
John Williams		
Benj. Parsons		

Northampton, Feb. 26, 1793.

In addition to the work undertaken by the Proprietors on the canal proper, Captain Elisha Mack had been commissioned to construct the necessary dam at South Hadley, and this work was completed by him during the summer of that same year. High water in the spring of 1794, however, did considerable damage to Captain Mack's structure, and the Proprietors sued him to recover the loss, claiming he had used unsound and unsuitable material. Although the Court awarded damages to the extent of \$700, Captain Mack's ability as a construction engineer was fully recognized by the Proprietors who continued to engage him for other similar undertakings.

The Massachusetts Legislature on June 21, 1793 (Acts of 1792, Chapter 13) reduced the stipulated size of craft to be accommodated by the locks and canal from 20 to 16 feet in width, and from 60 to 40 feet in length.

In 1794 the original incorporators divided into two companies, the parent concern to confine itself to the project at South Hadley, while the new company, incorporated February 27, 1794 (Acts of 1793, Chapter 70) as the "Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals in the Connecticut River" was to become responsible for the construction and operation necessary to render navigation safe below and above Great Falls.

A contract had already been made with Captain Mack to dam the Connecticut River at Great Falls. Not only was it necessary to eliminate the cataract, but in addition a dam at a height sufficient to flood the canal had to be constructed across the entire width of the river. A dam approximately 1,000 feet long and 28 feet above the previous water level was consequently required. The summer and fall of 1794 were spent by Captain Mack in accomplishing this feat. Mindful of what had happened to the dam built at Hadley Falls, the Proprietors were none too sanguine concerning the durability of the dam, and although it safely passed through the spring freshet of 1795, it was considered highly improbable that the dam could withstand the pressure of another season of high water. Work in earnest on the canal was consequently postponed until the effects of another spring freshet upon the dam had been demonstrated. The dam stood the test successfully, and a widespread reputation was established for Captain Mack, who afterward engineered several water projects in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Work was not entirely suspended, however, while Captain Mack's

dam was on trial. At a meeting of the Proprietors held on January 10, 1795, it was voted "to carry on their operations at Miller's Falls, at and below the Great Bar, the next season." The Great Bar was the unloading place for boats and rafts that came down the river, previously mentioned, and the head of the canal started at the lower end of this sand bar.

Entrance to the canal was to be gained through a "guard-lock," one side of which was the rocky Montague shore, and the other side was a wall of stone approximately 26 feet in width butted against the ledge to which the dam was anchored. From the guard-lock, the boats entered the canal proper, which was 20 feet wide. The locks were 75 feet long, walled in on either side by stone 8 feet thick. Midway in the canal, where the Rod Shop (Montague Rod and Reel) is now located in Montague City, a pond was made to enable boats to pass each other when traveling through the canal in opposite directions at the same time. Between the guard-lock and the pond there were three locks, while five locks were necessary between the pond and the other end to overcome the descent to the river level, there being a total fall of 66 feet in the passage.

The canal at South Hadley was successfully opened in the spring of 1795, and the accomplishment gave added encouragement and incentive to the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals. Nearly six years passed, however, before their undertaking was finished. The first toll was collected in August 1800, but the canal was not officially opened to public service until October.

The method first used to transfer craft from lock to lock depended upon a crude and unnamed piece of machinery. It is worthy of some description, however, as it shows how immature knowledge concerning canal operation was at that time. The contrivance was pictured on the corporate seal (see accompanying illustration) of the first company, and its operation was fully described in the "American Universal Geography" by Jedediah Morse, published in 1805. Briefly, the levels of the adjoining locks were connected by an inclined plane provided with tracks for a car; the raft or boat (all of which had flat bottoms) was floated onto the submerged car, which was then drawn up or lowered over the tracks on the inclined plane by power furnished by two water-wheels placed on each side of the canal at the head of the inclined plane. This method was in use until 1805, when Ariel Cooley of Chicopee perfected and installed the type of lock in general use afterward. The boats were drawn through the locks by a yoke of oxen on a tow path beside the canal.

In 1806 the Proprietors completed the list of their intended improvements by building a dam to transform the French King rapids into slack water. This dam, located approximately 1,000 feet below the mouth of Millers River, was 330 feet long, had a fall of 8 feet, and was equipped



Seal of the Proprietors of Locks
and Canals.

Showing the contrivance first used at
South Hadley for passing boats.

with one lock along the Gill shore 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. When the dam was rebuilt in 1824, the height was increased somewhat.

On completion of this dam and lock in 1806, a continuous waterway was opened up from Long Island Sound to points as far north as Wells River, Vt. For the next thirty or more years a streaming procession of up and down navigation possessed the Connecticut River during seven or eight months of the year, concerning which altogether too little has been left on record.

The boats used on the river for the transportation of heavy loads were called "flatboats." These freighters, designed for shallow water, had flat bottoms and drew less than 2 feet of water under a full load of 30 to 40 tons. They varied in length from 50 to 70 feet, and in width from 10 to 15 feet. They were provided with a cabin at the stern, a mast in the center or forward, and had a gunwale around the entire boat. The mast was usually approximately 25 feet high, and carried at least a main-sail and a top-sail. The cargo was piled around the mast, or in the open center. There were also cabinless boats of varying smaller dimensions. At the end of a day's run, the boats without cabins were moored along the shore, and there the crews made camp for the night.

When rough water was reached on the upstream trip, or when there was insufficient wind to move them, the flatboats derived their motive power from what jocosely came to be termed "the white ash breeze." This was the laborious method of propelling the boat by means of white ash poles grounded on the bottom of the river and braced against the shoulders of the crew, who then pushed the boat up-stream by sheer force. Naturally no weakling could engage in work that demanded such strenuous effort. The flatboat man had to be possessed of untiring muscles and indomitable endurance, with a complete disregard for physical pain, as shoulders were often rubbed distressingly raw by friction from the poles at the beginning of a season. As a class they had the reputation of being a hearty, jovial, daring lot, contemptuous of danger and undaunted by the slimmest odds of chance. Self-confident in their superior strength, they bore toward men in general a tolerant and genial courtesy befitting them. For the time being, they were the popular heroes of the Connecticut Valley.

Lumber rafting was carried on extensively during the years of river navigation. The rafts were composed of securely spliced logs, and were loaded with lumber, clapboards, shingles, and other freight. A loaded raft was called a "box," and during the voyage down the river two boxes were usually yoked abreast, with as many boxes yoked behind as was desired. When a canal or swift water was reached, the boxes were unyoked, and went forward one at a time.

Between the rafters and the flatboat men there was a constant state of belligerency, with an indulgence in much vituperation and wrangling, both in good humor and in earnest. The rafters, who always came down with the current because they made only a one-way trip, had a comparatively easy time as they sat aloft their loads, and they were inclined to jeer impolitely at the "upstreamers" sweating in "the white ash breeze;" and as an added affront, the unwieldy flotillas of these rafts cluttered up the river to the further exasperation of the boatmen, who, when a canal was reached, were primed for a struggle over the right of way, because a large number of boxes could enforce a long period of waiting. All of which was no more than the age-old expression of rivalry, from the shepherds and the camel drivers of ancient times to the truck drivers and the tourists of the present day.

When the rafters arrived at their destination they disposed of their complete outfit, as the logs that formed the raft were marketed as well as the cargo. The crews dispersed and many of them made the return trip as flatboat men, like victims of poetic justice, to labor ignominiously themselves in "the white ash breeze."

The possibility of replacing the flatboats by the use of steam power for navigation on the Connecticut does not appear to have been given any consideration until about the year 1824. Although the width of the canals would accommodate only steamboats of small size, it was believed that they could be equipped with engines powerful enough to overcome any current encountered, and at the same time have in tow several barges. The first test of such practicability was made by the Connecticut River Company, later known as the Connecticut Valley Steamboat Company, by placing an order for such a boat to be called "Barnet," in honor of Barnet, Vermont, which was expected to be its northern terminus.

The "Barnet" was completed in the fall of 1826, and the following was quoted from a New York City paper published November 13, 1826:

"The steam boat Barnet built by Messrs. Brown & Bell, and her Engine by Messrs. Birkbeck & Co. of this city, intended to navigate Connecticut River above the city of Hartford, may be seen at the east side of Fulton slip. She measures 75 feet in length, 14-½ in breadth and has a flat bottom, wall sides and her wheel in the stern—drawing with machinery, wood and water on board, 22 inches of water. As this vessel is intended expressly for shoal water, those who have the curiosity to examine it may have the opportunity through this day. She is expected to leave this port to-morrow for Connecticut River. It is supposed that the steam boats built upon a similar plan may be used on canals, as well as on rivers, without injury to their structure." (Franklin Herald, November 21, 1826.)

The "Barnet" left New York according to schedule, and after some mishaps finally reached Hartford, where a trial trip northward was immediately advertised. The "Hartford Mirror" made the following statement:

"The Barnet started on Friday on her first trip up Connecticut River. This boat has been built by the Connecticut River Company as a steam tow-boat, and is intended to ply as such, on the River above Hartford. She may be considered as the first of a series of improvements contemplated by the Company, which when completed will make Connecticut River the great thoroughfare to a market for a large part of the inhabitants of New England. As this is the first experiment of navigating the River above Hartford by steam, a number of gentlemen left here as passengers in the barge attached to the boat."

The following interesting comment was made by the "Hampshire Gazette:"

"Never was a stranger of distinction more anxiously and delightfully anticipated. The newspapers foretold and announced her. The people on the river were in an uproar. At Springfield the hubbub was complete." (Hampshire Gazette, November 29, 1826.)

The "Barnet" was given a lively welcome at Cheapside:

"Arrived at Cheapside (Deerfield) Saturday evening, the Steam Boat Barnet from Hartford, having on board about twenty passengers from Hartford and Springfield. On entering the mouth of Deerfield River, the citizens of Montague assembled on the bank of the Connecticut near the Bridge, fired a salute which was returned by the Barnet. As she neared the landing at Cheapside, a salute of 13 guns was fired by the citizens of Deerfield, which was returned by 26 from the Barnet. Sunday Evening, the Boat left her moorings and we understand will proceed up the River, as far as Bellows Falls, the season permitting." (Franklin Herald, December 5, 1826.)

The following comment appeared in the "Hampshire Gazette:"

"The Barnet—This boat reached Brattleboro on Monday of last week, continued its course to Bellows Falls on Tuesday, and returned to Brattleboro on Thursday. We are told it passed this place on Saturday on its return to Hartford." (Hampshire Gazette, December 20, 1826.)

The "Barnet" was unable to pass through the locks at Bellows Falls and immediately started on the return trip, which was made in all haste as far as Springfield, lest the unseasonable weather of the fall of 1836 should suddenly change to normal December conditions.

Reconstructing the itinerary of the "Barnet" from the published accounts of the trip, she reached Cheapside on Saturday the 2nd of Decem-

ber, and proceeded from that point to the entrance of Montague canal the following evening, Sunday the 3rd. The boat reached Brattleboro on Monday of the week following, December the 11th, at which place an elaborate banquet was held in honor of the occasion. She left Brattleboro the next day, December the 12th, and arrived at the Bellows Falls canal on Wednesday the 13th. Leaving Bellows Falls on Thursday the 14th she was again in Brattleboro that same day, and passed Northampton two days later, on Saturday the 16th. On Tuesday afternoon, the 19th, the "Barnet" was at West Springfield, where she stopped and many boarded her for Springfield. At Springfield many more came aboard until "the boat was black as my hat," so wrote eleven-year old Joseph Lathrop of West Springfield to his father, Honorable Samuel Lathrop, member of Congress. The steamer took the crowd down the river about a mile, then turned around and returned to Springfield where the night was spent. Leaving Springfield the next morning about nine o'clock with a considerable number of passengers, the "Barnet" returned to Hartford where a banquet on Thursday the 21st appropriately celebrated the eventful journey. As the boat left Hartford on November the 24th, the round trip had taken practically just one month.

The statement in the "History of Deerfield" that the "Barnet" passed the winter in the Montague canal and made a trip to Barnet, Vermont, in the spring of 1827, does not find support in actual record. The "Barnet" gave service in the vicinity of Hartford for several years, but was never again in Massachusetts waters.

The second ascent of the Connecticut River was made during the first week in August 1829 by the steamboat "Vermont."

"A circular was received in this town on Friday last from Mr. Blanchard, the ingenious machinist and builder of the boat, saying that the steamboat Vermont would leave Springfield on Monday (yesterday) the 3rd inst. for this place and Brattleboro, and would arrive here the same day. Much joy was manifested on the arrival of the Barnet in our waters three years ago, and we presume the Vermont will be hailed with equal pleasure. The prospect that she will make more than a solitary trip up the river, and lead the way to a general navigation of the river by steam, is much greater than that offered by the voyage of the Barnet, and the Vermont should therefore be greeted as a still more welcome visitor. The fare from Springfield to this place is but a dollar." (Gazette & Herald, August 4, 1829.)

"Steam Boat Vermont—This steam vessel arrived at the mouth of Deerfield River on Monday afternoon of last week. On Wednesday, she passed up the river to Brattleboro, and on Thursday she carried a party of pleasure to Bellows Falls, and returned to Brattleboro on Friday." (Gazette & Herald, August 11, 1829.)

The "Vermont" remained in the vicinity of Bellows Falls for some time, and later returned to service in the Springfield-Hartford section of the river. Although the boat did not prove to be satisfactorily manageable in swift water, its performance was enough to give the Connecticut River Steamboat Company encouragement to build several steam towboats for service from South Hadley to Wells River. These boats were too large to pass through canals, and were designed to provide towing service on the particular section, or reach, of the river on which they had been constructed. The high peak of this undertaking was attained in 1831.

The following article appeared in the "Franklin Freeman:"

"Arrived at our landing, Cheapside, on Wednesday last, the new steamboat Uriah Cooley, from South Hadley. She is intended to ply between that place and Montague canal, and with others on the Connecticut, to form a line of communication from Hartford to the head of navigation on the river. The boat is much larger than the John Ledyard, which has been plying on the same route, and exhibits a handsome specimen of mechanical ingenuity. The principal design is the towing of freight boats, but she has accommodations for passengers.

"It gives us pleasure to see steam navigation so far established on the Connecticut. The falls at Enfield, South Hadley, Montague, Walpole and others higher up, have heretofore been considered as insuperable barriers to the successful application of this kind of navigation; but this difficulty is obviated by running boats between the falls; and by availing themselves of the canals around them, freight boats may now make their voyages in much less time and expense, than by the old method. We hope the project will meet with encouragement from the inhabitants of the fertile banks of the Connecticut.

"The application of steam to the mechanic arts is not a late invention. Long had it been applied to the working of a lever in the common steam engine; but to produce a rotary motion, and apply it to the working of wheels, required many inventions and improvements; and some acute men foresaw that the time was not far distant when this desideratum would be accomplished. Among them was the profound Dr. Darwin whose poetical prediction, at that time, was thought to be visionary.

'Soon shall thy arm, unconquered steam! afar
'Drag the slow barge or drive the rapid car,
'Or on wide-waving wings expanded bear
'The flying chariot through fields of air.' "

(Franklin Freeman, September 5, 1831.)

With operation of steam towboat service on all the reaches, it was ex-

pected that "the white ash breeze" would soon die out. At the end of the first season, however, it was discovered that the venture had not been a profitable one, and that much capital must be expended on river improvements before steamboat towage could be done advantageously. Service above Cheapside was abandoned after 1832. Several of the boats were never used again and dry-rotted, drawn up on the river banks. Steam propulsion for craft was then in its experimental stage, and the power used on these boats was the steam-driven stern paddle-wheel. Although the flatboat was cumbersome and required the most strenuous manual labor from its crew, it was best adapted to river navigation at that time.

In connection with the foregoing, the report of the Connecticut River Steam Boat Company for the year 1831 contained some interesting facts and figures, summarized as follows:

Annual meeting was held at Windsor, Vt., Jan. 3, 1832. Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard was elected President, Isaac W. Hubbard, Clerk, and Frederick Pettes, Treasurer. A board of fifteen directors was also chosen.

The Capital Stock subscribed was 2,012 shares at \$12.50 per share, upon which an assessment of \$3.50 per share had been made.

Six Steam Boats had been built, instead of five, the number originally intended.

The John Ledyard was built (cost \$4,758) at Springfield, Mass., commenced running in May last and continued in operation until September. After performing a trip to Wells River, it ran for the balance of the time above, on the second section.

The William Hall was built (cost \$4,919.14) at Hartford, Conn., commenced running in July and continued during the season. The cost of running it, as per the return of the Captain was \$2,085.88. Earnings, \$2,514.87. Gain \$428.99.

The Ariel Cooley was built (cost \$7,221.45 including the other boat at \$850) at South Hadley, as per contract with Messrs. Moody and Preston, commenced running in September, and continued to the close of the season. The cost of running it, as per return of the Captain, was \$1,036.80. Earnings \$991.28. Loss, \$45.52.

The William Holmes was built (cost \$4,943.61) at Bellows Falls, commenced running in October, and continued until the end of the season. The expense of running, \$455.19. Earnings not returned.

The David Porter was built (cost \$4,737.29) at Hartland, Vt., commenced running in November, and continued to the close of the season. The expense of running \$159.78. Earnings, \$122.15. Loss, \$37.63.

The Adam Duncan (to cost \$4,900.00) is building at Wells River, Vt.

Immediately after the publishing of this report, 100 shares of the stock was sold in Springfield for less than \$1.00 per share. The "Springfield Journal" in commenting on the transaction, stated that it was attributable "not to the failure of the scheme of navigating the Connecticut by steam power, but to the gross mismanagement of the Company's concerns the last year, and the faint prospect of improvement the next year."

During the years of steamboating here, only one serious accident occurred on the river north of Springfield. The steam towboat "Greenfield" was totally destroyed by the bursting of its boiler near Smith's Ferry at Hadley on May 18, 1840, and three lives were lost. An engine and boiler of experimental design had been constructed and installed on the new boat by a Mr. William Lancey of Springfield, one of the victims. Misjudgment regarding the pressure resistance of the boiler is supposed to have resulted in the catastrophe.

For some reason confusion has arisen concerning the identity of this boat, and several trustworthy authorities have been misled into stating that the "Greenfield" was the reconditioned "Ariel Cooley," a steamer still in service on the Connecticut some six or seven years after the mishap. The accounts of the disaster published directly afterward offer unquestionable evidence that the "Greenfield" was a newly built boat:

"Steamboat Explosion—Shocking Disaster."

"It becomes our melancholy duty to record an event very unusual in this section of the country—the explosion of a steamboat—which has resulted in the loss of one and probably three lives. The steam tow boat Greenfield burst her boilers Monday afternoon last about 3 o'clock just above Smith's Ferry on the Connecticut, about five miles below this village. The explosion was tremendous, shivering the boat almost to atoms so that it sank immediately. The Engineer, Mr. Alanson Wood of Brattleboro was immediately killed; the Captain, Mr. John B. Crawford of South Hadley was so shockingly mangled that there is no prospect of his life; and a Mr. Lancey, machinist of Springfield, who was on board merely to witness the operation of her machinery was so badly mutilated, that there is not much probability of his living. The fireman was blown up to a considerable altitude and dropped into the river, but received only slight injury.

"A freight boat and cargo, consisting mostly of salt, was sunk. A considerable part of the cargo belonged to Allen and Root of Greenfield. The Steamboat was lately built at an expense of about \$6,000, and the freight boat was worth about \$500; both belonged to the Greenfield Boating Company.

"This event has spread deep sorrow through the community. Perhaps no blame should be attached to anybody, but we cannot refrain from believing, from the best information we can obtain, that the boat was pushed harder than prudence would warrant. It was a new boat, and there was an ambition to establish its reputation for speed.

"P.S. Capt. Crawford and Mr. Lancey are both dead."

(Hampshire Gazette, May 20, 1840.)

"Steamboat Explosion and Loss of Life"

"As the new steamboat Greenfield, with four or five freight boats in tow, was going up the Connecticut on Monday afternoon, and when near South Hadley, the boiler exploded with terrible consequences. There were five hands on board the steamboat: Capt. Crawford, Mr. Alanson Wood of Brattleborough, engineer; Mr. William Lancy of this town, machinist and maker of the engine and boiler; Mr. Moses Cooley of this town, and the fireman. There were about 25 men in the freight boats. Mr. Wood was instantly killed, his body being shockingly mutilated. Capt. Crawford received such wounds in the head as to cause his death within a few hours. Mr. Lancy was dangerously wounded and it is feared he will not recover. The fireman escaped with a slight injury. Mr. Cooley was blown over upon one of the freight boats, where he found himself not much injured.

"The steamboat was made a perfect wreck, and soon sunk, carrying down with it one of the freight boats laden with about 35 tons of salt, iron, tea and sugar. The boats, it is said, belonged to the Greenfield Boating Company, and the loss is named at about \$10,000. The cause of the explosion is not yet explained. The boat stopped to let a freight boat hitch on, and soon as the engine commenced operation, the explosion occurred."

(Springfield Republican, May 23, 1840.)

Mr. Lancey lived five days, and the "Springfield Republican" announced his death in the next issue. The statement in the "Hampshire Gazette" was premature.

Allen & Root, the principal owners of the Greenfield Boating Company, at once replaced the lost "Greenfield" with another steamboat, likewise called "The Greenfield," and the new boat was in use between Hartford and Cheapside for about three years.

Railroads then, however, had begun to operate over tracks that paralleled the Connecticut River, and their better service and convenience soon took away much of the freight business handled by the barges. Allen & Root forsook their enterprise on the river, and the "Greenfield" was

sold in October 1843 to a North Carolina company for use on the Neuse River.

For such reasons river navigation began to decline during the decade from 1835 to 1845, and profitable operation of the canals became an uncertainty. Although a desultory business continued through another decade, the demands for service were insufficient to warrant continuance. The last boat was sent through the Montague canal in 1856. The gate-keeper's office* at the falls end of the canal, where tolls from the passing boats had been collected, was abandoned and left to symbolize alone the vanished day of prosperous river traffic.

Thus another colorful epoch in local history succumbed to the march of progress. Time advances, and the modes of enterprise and commerce change. With the speedier and cheaper service by rail, the pressing necessity that once existed for river navigation was gone, and with its going the usefulness of the canals ended.

The river boatman, like his contemporary, the dexterous driver of the stagecoach, no longer holds a place in the panorama of local daily happenings. The rousing songs of the bargemen that once echoed down the reaches of the river are hushed. The rafter no longer yells profane and derogatory encouragement to the straining polemen, and the boatmen's taverns along the river, scenes of hilarious rivalry, with many a well-matched wrestling bout, vanished one by one long ago.

Early navigation on the Connecticut River was a racking test of brute strength. No slave on any ancient trireme was ever forced to endure more galling labor. The men it produced were a rough, perhaps, and sinewy lot—men of enormous muscle and prodigious strength. They were physical giants, whose capacity for lifting and wrestling was almost super-human, and gained for them among outsiders the title of "River Gods" because no ordinary mortal could compete with them.

No boatman or bargeman, though, was ever guilty of referring to himself as a River God. In his parlance, he was "a river-dog," or, according to Sol Caswell, "a river-hog," from the fact that he was liable to wallow in water from morn to eve, drenched to the skin when the voyaging was rough.

*At some later date it was moved onto higher ground where the building once known as "The Farren House" stands, and at times was used as a schoolhouse. When the dam was being rebuilt in 1866 by the Turners Falls Company, Dr. Gideon Ryther of Bernardston converted it into a restaurant for the workmen. Afterward it served as the first office of the Turners Falls Company.

The White-Ash-Breeze

Yea, ye who can remember the piping days of yore,
When boat and jolly boatman went freighting by the shore -
When ponderous was the freight, and Notus would not aid,
Our jolly old-time boatmen were wholly undismayed -
But with shoulders to the ash and the point submerged below,
And a walk along the gunnel, made the old boat go.

Yo, heave O! there's music in the trees;

We'll wake a rousing chorus for the White-Ash-Breeze.

They were not meek as Moses, - those river-dogs of old, -
Nor many of them saintly, if the truth must be told;
But manly was their bearing, and men they meant to be,
Nor sought to enter heaven by a sum in Rule of Three.
But the few who linger yet, that an old acquaintance sees,
Look longingly upon the flood, and on the White-Ash-Breeze.

Yo, heave O! there's music in the trees;

We'll wake a rousing chorus for the White-Ash-Breeze.

Josiah D. Canning

(Turners Falls Reporter, February 4, 1880.)

Chapter 11

ROADS AND FERRIES

In the early days of rural travel, country roads were little more than cleared trails that followed easiest directions, full of curves and sharp turns, and laid out by no prescribed plan. They wandered hither and thither, up and down, guided by the obstacles encountered—skirting a swamp here, avoiding a boulder there, and climbing the sides of hills wherever ridges offered the readiest footholds. The first settlers built cabins on their lots wherever personal preference dictated, and roads in time evolved from the winding paths that connected these scattered homesteads.

The following apt description is quoted from "Legends of New England" by Julia Gill and Frances Lee, pen names of Urania and Frances Stoughton:

"A good spring of water, close by the door, is such a handy thing," said Mrs. Risle. So Mr. Risle, who had no pleasure but to please his wife, built his cabin by the spring.

"Whatever I have, I want plenty of fresh air; it makes a place so much healthier," said Mr. Darby. Therefore on a slightly hill he squared and spliced together the logs that made the walls of his home.

A sheltered spot, where his corn and rye would get an early start, better met Mr. Davis's ideas of comfort. So his cabin was built where a wooded hill sloped down behind and at the sides, while a glimpse of the river showed beyond the clearing in front.

Thus each man built here and there, according to his own taste and convenience; and thus the bridlepaths, which first followed notched trees and finally broadened and hardened into roads, zig-zagged from one clearing to another, up hill and down, with no regard to the convenience or ease of travel but only democratically bent on giving every inhabitant an equal privilege in the advantage of a highway.

The roads that thus came into existence were at first community interests and were maintained by mutual agreements among the inhabitants of each district of the township. Only main thoroughfares were town or county roads, and even these roads showed little consideration for convenience or speed of travel; nor were they always kept in good

condition, if reliance can be put on statements in old letters in which the writers complained about the fatigue and slowness of journeys. It is even related how one farmer, contemplating a trip to a neighboring city requiring a journey of several days, started out at midday with an ox-team loaded with produce, and at nightfall had proceeded so short a distance that he walked back after dark and spent the night at his own home.

Even when the towns began to "lay out" the roads, conditions did not improve particularly, for the roads continued to follow the lines of least resistance and little forethought was given to the possibility of saving distance. How deviously crooked these roads sometimes were is plainly revealed by the "minits" of the surveyor's record of measurements entered on the town books, or found in deeds conveying property with a highway for a boundary.

After the first settlers had become well established, it sometimes happened that a later settler found himself so hemmed in by others that his only means of exit was a pentroad, so-called, being a right of way across other properties to a traveled road, with a gate of bars at the boundary line of each property through which the traveler passed, and which had to be opened or lowered and then replaced at each passage. Such pentroads were arranged at first by consent or agreement, but when heirs or new owners came into possession of the properties, contention was liable to develop, and the town had to settle matters by building a town road.

The indefinite boundary descriptions given in the town records make the locations of these early roads a difficult matter. Many of them were in use only for a short time, and were discontinued when more conveniently located county roads or other town roads were opened, upon which the settlers placed permanent dwellings.

The earliest road here was the old Proprietors Road from Greenfield to Northfield through Factory Hollow and West Gill. It probably bore little semblance to what we now call a road even after it became a Hampshire County road in 1732, just a trail cleared sufficiently to permit the passage of an ox-cart.

In 1736 when the Proprietors were preparing to allot the land "East of Green River and North of Cheapside," they voted at a meeting held on March 29 "That Thos. Wells, Lieut. Hinsdel, Timothy Childs, Benj. Munn, Edward Allen 2d and Elijah Williams, be a committee to lay out and well mark what Roads for Highways they shall think necessary & convenient in the Lands to be laid out before any allotment thereof be made." On the 10th of April, the Proprietors voted "that we will begin to Lay out said Land on ye sixteenth Day of this instant April," so presumably the roads had been "well marked" by that time though no rec-

ord gives the information. It is not unlikely that the trails laid out then were the beginnings of the roadways that developed into the Straits Road, the road to Gill Center that branches off above Factory Hollow from the West Gill Road, or old Proprietors Road, and the old road from the Falls to Northfield, of which only the sections at the beginning and the end are now in use. In records it was usually referred to as "the Northfield Fishing Falls road;" it was one of the old Hampshire County roads before ever Gill was made a township. It followed the present Mountain Road to the foot of the grade just beyond the Duda farm, and there turned northeastward, skirting the foot of Day's Hill; continuing eastward below the northern slope of Pisgah, the road descended to the meadow levels in the vicinity of the property once owned by Ebenezer Chapin and his son, Eliphaz L. Chapin; there it turned northerly, crossed Woodward's Brook at the site of the later Janes's gristmill, skirted the east side of Davis's Hill, and somewhere on the present Eddy farm began to follow the route north to the town line now in use. A few dwellings dotted this road in early days. A fork in the road southeasterly near the foot of Day's Hill provided the route by which the first farms in the Pisgah region were reached. The southern section of this old road to Northfield was in use up to the year 1814 when the portion between the South Road and the Mountain Road was discontinued.

The original County Road through West Gill probably followed the trail of the Proprietors Road. It continued on up Cascade Hill for several rods beyond the point where it now turns northward. Vestiges of this road, discontinued when relocation was made in 1794, can still be seen just north of the Fred A. Perry property, between the Franklin Road and the "old Hosmer place."

Another early road gave direct connection between the West Gill Road and the Straits Road. It branched off at the turning point on Cascade Hill and joined the Straits Road in the vicinity of the present Tibbetts's property. It was made a county road in 1765, but was discontinued after the incorporation of Gill as a township. References to this old road appear in the Greenfield records:

"A road Beginning at a Cherry Tree the West Side of a Town road where it joins the County Road in Greenfield a little North of the Great Falls & Runs to a pine at Thos Lovelands Land the survey of which was made February 26th 1782 by Elisha Root."

The Town of Greenfield at its annual meeting on March 2, 1782 "Voted to confirm a Road Laid out from Capt. Childses Farm to Thos. Lovelands," which was evidently the road laid out in accordance with the foregoing survey.

According to the Greenfield town records, Timothy Childs on De-

ember 20, 1775 surveyed "a Road laid from the Town road at the Schoolhouse near Woodward's brook to the Bridge at Fall River near the Iron Works," which was accepted by the town. At the annual town meeting on March 10, 1777, Greenfield voted that "Saml Wells, Saml Stoughton, John Howland be a Committee to view the Rode across Ithamar Allens Land & to Prize the Damage & Report to the Town." Both of these entries refer to the road from Gill Center to West Gill and on to the Bernardston line at the Hoe Shop, which is located on the site of the old Iron Works.

The following entries are taken from the Greenfield records:

"Voted to accept a road from David Gains to Bernardston line." (March 2, 1782.)

"Voted to Discontinue the Rode acrost the Farm of Capt. Childses Heirs to Howlands for one year." (March 31, 1783.)

"Voted to establish the Road from Bernardston line by William Richardsons house to Merodach Smiths southeast corner." (March 7, 1784.)

"Voted to establish a road Beginning at a Heap of Stones & an Oak Stake north of N. Nichols House on the road that leads from Mr. Hosleys to the great Falls." (December 6, 1790.)

The indefinite bounds mentioned in the foregoing extracts show how impossible it is at this day to locate many of the roads that were in use at one time. The Town of Gill in its own records was oftentimes no more explicit, and the town clerk considered it quite sufficient to describe "a Town Way for the use of Gill" surveyed the 17th of November 1794, as "begining at a Large Baswood tree by the Great River," without adding any further particulars to define the location.

On May 6, 1795, it was "Voted the Selectmen lay out the road leading from the Falls to Northfield." This was the so-called "Straits Road" then in use. It climbed the sides of the ridges of the "Straits" with many a "thank-you-ma'am"*; was joined by the old road from Factory Hollow just above the Siciak farm, and proceeded on to Gill Center by way of the discontinued road off of which the Frank Zak house stands, and on down the steep grade just beyond. The selectmen's survey for the road in fulfillment of the town's vote was made on November 27, 1795. Their "minits" have been preserved and furnish some elements of interest:

Laid out for the use of the Town of Gill Town way Begining at an Elm tree at the west end of Lt Shattucks Stone wall runing E38 N 68

*"Thank-you-ma'am"—a resting place for oxen and horses on their way up hill.

rods; E31 N 44 rods; E26 N 76 rods; E20 N 22 rods; E30 N 30 rods; E15 N 42 rods; E11 N 14 rods; E42 N 38 rods; E26 N 32 rods; E31 N 49 rods; E24 N 14 rods; E43 N 29 rods; E30 N 25 rods; N37 E 42 rods; N44 E 60 rods; N43 E 20 rods; E30 N 14 rods; E15 N 20 rods; E35 N 42 rods; N36 E 24 rods; N32 E 8-1/2 rods; E27 N 39 rods; E33 N 40 rods; E24 N 18 rods; E10 N 22 rods; E2 S 18 rods; E22 N 24 rods; E39 N 17 rods; E22 N 20 rods to Mr. Bates House; E13 N 35 rods to heap of stones; N15 E 9 rods to heap of stones; N27 E 6 rods to heap of stones; E31 N 26 rods to heap of stones; E35 N 4 rods to Woodward's Brook; E3 N 9 rods; E35 N 16 rods; N41 E 20 rods; N26 E 23 rods; N40 E 34 rods; N44 E 20 rods; E13 N 12 rods; E8 N 31 rods; E13 N 16 rods to the west end of Jonth J Horsleys Stone wall on the south side of the Road; E26 N 89 rods to Jonth J Horsleys Barn; E25 N 45 rods to Isaa Horsleys Barn; E32 N 10 rods; E 24 N 28 rods; N25 E 46 rods; N32 E 28 rods; N11 E 14 rods; N 14 rods; N6 W 21 rods; N36 W 6 rods; N31 W 23 rods; N11 W 14 rods; N4 E 26 rods; N20 E 12 rods; N29 E 32 rods; N34 E 28 rods; N12 E 50 rods to a heap of stone where the old line of the Town was; then west 2 rods; Beginning where Northfield Line formerly was, running N13 E 27 rods; N19 W 20 rods; N37 W 30 rods; N26 W 35 rods; N23 W 24 rods; N4 W 14 rods; N1 E 13 rods; N35 E 27 rods; N14 E 46 rods; N23 W 31 rods; N1 E 31 rods.

Noah Munn	}	Selectmen of Gill
David Risley		

Mr. Bates lived where Frank Zak's farmhouse now stands, and the Kendrow farm is the former Jonathan J. Hosley place. The elm tree that stood at the west end of Lieutenant Shattuck's stonewall was the giant elm removed by the State when the French King Highway was constructed in 1932.

On December 7, 1795 it was "Voted to establish the road leading from Mr. Wrisley's to Mr. Brooks." This was the road from the center south toward the river. Mr. Brooks lived on the farm later known as the "Stacy farm," and Mr. Eleazer Wrisley lived on the other side of Woodward's Brook below the bridge at the end of the common. At that time the brook was crossed slightly beyond Mr. Wrisley's dwelling, and was approached down the grade beside the Center Cemetery. After crossing the brook, the road swung back to the present route around Mr. Wrisley's farmhouse which then faced south. Attempts to straighten out this road by building a bridge at the present location occasioned town strife over a long period of years. In 1814 there was considerable agitation in favor

of the project, and the selectmen made some changes in the road east of Woodward's Brook in anticipation. The bridge was voted down, however, but the altered road "to David Wrisleys from the meetinghouse" remained and was accepted by the town in the following year. Mr. David Wrisley lived on the premises now owned by John Kislowksi, his dwelling standing on the crest of the hill above the present farmhouse.

Another piece of roadway that excited much opposition was the construction of a link connecting the four corners of the present Boyle Road with the Northfield Road. Up to the year 1825, when it was finally accepted, this stretch of road was the subject of heated contention, and apparently caused much altercation between the interested parties, though the exact reasons therefor are not explained by the records.

On January 23, 1797 it was "Voted to establish a pent-road from David Wrisley 3d's dwellinghouse, northerly by I. Johnson's to Bernardston line." This was the section of the present Boyle Road north of Mill Lane, continued to the Bernardston line. David Wrisley, 3d, lived in a house on Mill Lane near the place where Herbert Hastings's dwelling now stands, and Isaac Johnson lived at the four corners property now owned by Samuel Day.

The Bernardston, or Boyle, Road originally started from the common at the west line of the present Marble property and then veered eastwardly to the crossing over Woodward's Brook. Although the road was made a county road in 1801, the direct route now used was not laid out until 1825 when the roadway on the west was exchanged for an equal roadway through the property owned at that time by Alfred Alvord. (Bk. 63, p. 199.)

The road to the Blake farm is the only part still in use of the road established in 1794 for the benefit of Joseph Sprague. In combination with the Mountain Road, it formed a loop between the Straits Road and the road from Factory Hollow to Gill Center, and the route as a whole was commonly known as "the back road to Gill," when mentioned by those who lived around "the Falls."

The cross-road from the West Gill Road to the road from the Falls was laid out through the land of Henry Ewers and Dr. Joel Lyons in 1819. The road to Janes's mills from the County Road was not a town road until 1820.

Benjamin Brainard and thirty-three others petitioned the County Commissioners on August 26, 1832 to relocate part of the road from Factory Hollow to Gill Center because of its being "circuitous, rocky, hilly, and difficult to keep in repair." A public hearing was held "the second Tuesday in June 1833," and on April 8, 1835 bids were solicited for 550 rods of new contruction from Factory Hollow to Rufus Hosley's.

All of the old road between the West Gill Road and the present Sunnyside School location was discontinued except the section now known as "the Franklin Road."

Some changes in the Straits Road were made by the County Commissioners in 1881, and in 1919 the present road through the Straits was laid out. In 1923 the new direct approach to Gill Center was constructed, replacing the old road by the Frank Zak farm.

Travel over these early roads was made either on horseback or by ox-cart. The coach and the chaise did not become common for private use until long after the Revolutionary War. Stagecoach routes followed the main turnpikes, and messengers rode "post" and "express" on horseback throughout the countryside over the ordinary town and country roads connecting the villages. Travelers over these roads found fording at some shallow spot an easy matter when small streams were encountered, but when a deep stream had to be crossed, a raft was necessary to enable the traveler to reach the opposite side. As a consequence, ferries were established at well traveled points, a toll being collected from the traveler by the ferryman. Early records of the towns along the Connecticut River contain many entries where permission was granted a man to establish a ferry when such a need became evident, and often the maintenance of a ferry was handed down in the same family for many generations.

The ferryman rowed foot passengers over in a skiff, but when he had to transport riders, carts, or livestock, a ferryboat was required. These well built rafts, strong enough to carry heavy loads, varied in size in accordance with the demands of travel, and were operated either by hand or by draft animals. Where the current was too strong for easy operation, a cable, firmly anchored on each side, was strung across the river. Chains attached to the ferryboat and also to rings around the cable kept the boat on an even course, the power being furnished by the ferryman, who standing at the front of the boat and holding a wooden clincher, grasped a wire strung above the cable, and by pulling upon this and walking backward at the same time, forced the boat forward the distance of one length. By continued repetition of the operation, the other side of the river was reached. Such ferries were usually called "wire ferries."

Ferrying in the old days was a leisurely procedure, and the time that travelers so lost was one of the main arguments in favor of bridges, when their construction became more general. If the traveler approached from the side opposite the dwelling of the ferryman, a loud "halloo" often was sufficient to attract attention; sometimes a tin dinner-horn or a bell was attached to a post to assist the traveler in making his presence known. Whereupon there was nothing to do except await the arrival of the ferry-

man, and if perchance he was hoeing corn in some distant field, arrival at the ferry took considerable time before he was even ready to start across with either rowboat or ferryboat.

As soon as bridges began to replace ferries on the main arteries of travel, toll receipts at intermediate ferries dwindled, and in many cases it became necessary for towns to maintain the ferries for public convenience. Both of the Northfield Farms ferries were so operated for many years, the expense being divided between the Towns of Gill and Northfield. Ferry usage ceased altogether soon after the introduction of the automobile, as a detour of several miles to reach a bridge took less time than the slow crossing by ferry with all the accompanying delays.

The earliest ferry in operation here was the one over the Connecticut River just above the falls at the location later occupied by the Red Suspension Bridge. Although this ferry was operated generally by ferrymen who lived on the Montague side of the river and may therefore be considered to belong appropriately to the annals of that town, an outline of its history may be of interest and not altogether out of place.

The province land in Montague above Sunderland's north bounds that had not been previously sold was bought in its entirety in 1758 by David Ballard. The whole tract contained some 5,000 acres, and included the land from the Narrows in the river to a point some distance below the falls. Not long afterward David Ballard settled on the hillside above the river, with the "Great Sand Bar" at its foot, and the spot was probably chosen because it offered an advantageous ferry location for travelers journeying between Montague and Bernardston. No record states the exact year in which he started his ferry, but the Town of Montague appointed a committee on March 3, 1766 "to look out a convenient passage down the Bank near David Ballards ferry place & also down the hill near his House." The records also show that the town voted on December 4, 1769 that "work done be allowed in the surveyors accts on a road at Ballards falls made this summer past." Presumably this was the road referred to in old deeds as "the road from the landing place at the Great Bar above the falls to the rafting place below the falls."

On December 2, 1782, David Ballard sold Captain Elisha Mack the tract of land lying around the falls on the west side of the County Road, including the ferry. In the following year David Ballard sold 30 acres on the east side of the road to Irene Pendell, the wife of Elisha Pendell, who at the same time bought from Captain Mack the ferry place with two acres of land on the opposite side of the road. Elisha and John Pendell, father and son, conducted the ferry for the next ten years. In 1794 John Pendell, who had removed to New York State, sold the ferry place back to Captain Mack. Elisha and Irene Pendell, who later also went to New

York State, sold the 30 acres opposite to Andrew Ellis, specifically excluding all ferry rights or privileges. Five years later Andrew Ellis sold the tract to Lyman Taft, who in due course conveyed it to his son, Merrill Taft, whose family grew up in the brick house located at the foot of Ferry Road.

Jonathan Marsh Bissell bought Captain Mack's sawmill on the Montague side of the river below the falls in 1791 and also operated the ferry for some years, having obtained the privileges from Captain Mack after the departure of the Pendells. A map of Montague made by Elisha Root in 1794 shows "Bissell's Ferry" above the falls. Pressey's "History of Montague" refers correctly to the date of this map on page 138, but on the interleaved map itself, a misprint gives the date as 1764.

After the completion of the dam and the canal, Captain Mack who was engaged in other navigation projects on the river, conveyed his local interests to Jonathan Dwight & Son of Springfield. The Dwights held the property until 1816, and there are no records to show who possessed the ferry privileges during that time. William Russell, who was lock-tender at the falls end of the canal, bought six acres of land on February 3, 1816, and the Dwight's deed of conveyance included "all our right, title and interest in and to a certain tract of land lying in Montague, bounded northerly on Connecticut River near the Great Dam at the Ferry Place, East, South & West on land supposed to be owned by Lyman Taft, with two houses and one Barn standing thereon. Also our right and interest in our Ferry Boat together with our right to the Ferry." In the following year Mr. Russell deeded the land and ferry privileges to his son-in-law, Simon Remington.

So far as it has been learned, Simon Remington was the only ferryman ever to lose his life at this particular ferry, although the crossing must have been a hazardous undertaking at times. He and two other men, a horse, and a yoke of cattle were crossing when the boat was caught in an eddy and sunk. The other two men reached shore, and the horse and the oxen went over the falls unhurt. Further details concerning the mishap have been handed down as one of the river legends in a story telling how a yoke of oxen went over the falls one spring when the water was high. During the trip the ox-yoke parted and one ox landed on Rocky Mountain in Greenfield beyond the mouth of Fall River. The other ox scrambled out on "Little Island" below "Great Island," and it was several days before the water receded sufficiently to allow anyone to reach the island with fodder for the ox, and still longer before the animal could be removed. Day and night during the time the ox was without food, the incessant bellowing of the terrified and famished beast was heard above the roar of the falls.

The widow, Electa (Russell) Remington, married Alexander Ryther who announced his resumption of the ferry by the following advertisement:

ROPE FERRY above MILLER'S Falls
MONTAGUE

The subscriber has established a Rope Ferry at the old ferry place, called the Wire Ferry, above Miller's Falls in Montague. Travellers may be assured that they will not be detained by crossing the ferry more than two or three minutes. The goodness of the roads, to and from this ferry, will be additional inducements to travellers from Boston to the West, to prefer this route to the circuitous one by way of Sunderland bridge. The subscriber flatters himself that by constant attendance, he shall merit and receive a suitable share of custom.

ALEXANDER RYTHUR

Montague, March 22 (1824)

In 1852 Mr. Ryther sold the ferry to George Hubbard Taft. About the year 1865, Albert Smith, who lived on the Gill side of the river overlooking the ferry-landing, assumed the ferryman's duties for a period of some ten years.

"People who visit Turner's Falls and want to see the grandeur of the Falls and the scenery from all directions, should cross the ferry a short distance above the dam and take a view from the north side of the river. Capt. Albert Smith, who commands the ferryboat is not exactly an 'old salt,' but an old fresh-water man. He has navigated the Connecticut nearly eleven years—six years at Rice's crossing in Deerfield and is on his fifth year at the Falls. He has a good boat and a strong wire; is gentlemanly and sociable; will point out all the beauties of the situation and at the same time convey you quickly and safely from shore to shore. His boat runs the longest during the season, having the past winter run until the 15th of December, and resumed running on the 8th of April, eight days after the last sleigh crossed the river on the ice. Capt. Smith has built himself a house on the north bank of the river, and runs out promptly at the call for his service, or the toot of the horn on the south bank. He also has a great variety of Indian relics and other curious things in his house which he is happy to show to all who call."

(Gazette & Courier, May 17, 1869.)

Albert R. Jones from West Deerfield acted as the ferryman for a time in 1875. The last ferryman was James Potter.

"Crossing with teams on the ferryboat has ceased forever. The rope broke the other day and the boat has been taken out."

(Turners Falls Reporter, December 11, 1878.)

This mishap only slightly shortened the existence of the ferry as the new bridge was opened to traffic some two weeks later.

The second ferry in Gill was established by Gilbert Stacy, who bought Daniel Brooks's property in 1801 and soon afterward started the ferry to Northfield Farms. After Mr. Stacy's death in 1813, Samuel Luce ran the ferry until 1825 when Harrison G. Stacy became old enough to assume its operation.

STACY'S FERRY

A new and substantial boat is procured at Stacy's Ferry, so-called, and constant attendance will be given by H. G. Stacy.

(Franklin Herald, May 3, 1825.)

Thomas Templeton, who lived on the Northfield side of the river, acted as ferryman at times. He lost his life by drowning in 1829, and the only particulars concerning the tragedy are contained in the following meager account:

"DROWNED. We learn that a Mr. Templeton of Gill was drowned in Connecticut river on Wednesday last (24 June 1829). He left his house at 10 o'clock A.M. and was not heard of till he was found the next morning. We have learnt no farther particulars, except that he was ferryman at Stacy's ferry, and has left a family."

(Gazette & Herald, June 20, 1829.)

Soon afterward Dwight Morgan became the ferryman, and due to his long tenure, the ferry was referred to frequently as "Morgan's Ferry." He also lost his life by drowning on December 3, 1854. Dwight Stewart and the Durkees, Jeremiah and Oscar, then operated the ferry for a number of years, when it finally passed into the hands of the Thornton family, whose members ran it until its discontinuance about 1925. In 1869 the Town of Gill bought the ferry-house and the land around it from Samuel P. Stratton (Bk. 272, p. 127.), and the old unpainted, weather-stained house, where the families of the ferrymen had lived, was long a familiar landmark until destroyed by fire on October 31, 1932.

Munn's Ferry, the upper Northfield Farms Ferry, was established in 1825. At a town meeting held on January 3, 1825, it was voted "to accept the road beginning at the Connecticut River on land of Seth Munn from thence to said Munn's house, if anybody will indemnify the town from all expense." Mr. Munn himself evidently assumed this obligation as he performed the service faithfully for the following forty years.

John C. Delvy, who had married Mr. Munn's granddaughter, became the second ferryman in 1864, and conducted the ferry for the following eight years. During his tenure, the ferry became a "wire ferry," and the road down the bank on the Gill side was considerably altered in order to give a more direct approach.

Among those who later served as ferrymen were Leonard B. Grout, Ezra Shantley, Alfred Simonds, Ralph Simonds, Arther Grout, and Charles Chappell. Mr. Chappell lived on the Northfield side of the river, and was drowned on December 8, 1911 while returning from the Gill shore where he had delivered a passenger. No one witnessed the accident, but his rowboat with one oar in it was found the next day at the mouth of Millers River. The ferry was discontinued in 1935, and the last ferryman was Fred Shantley, son of Ezra Shantley the earlier ferryman.

The following account of an incident related in a letter dated June 14, 1874 is perhaps worth preserving:

"Capt. Harrison White, with the assistance of Edward R. Thornton and Gilbert Stacy, on the Wednesday previous started to take the old Falls ferryboat up to Morgan's ferry and when they reached the French King rapids they hitched a horse to the boat to help get it through the swift water. They had almost succeeded when the boat unexpectedly struck a rock and the strong current got the better of the horse. Capt. White, who was on shore directing matters, was momentarily overcome with astonishment to behold an old horse coming down the shore tail first through the brush, but recovered presence of mind in time to cut the rope with his ax, and save the horse. The boat, after going down stream some distance, struck another rock and capsized, about half of the boat being submerged. The next day, about fifty of the townsmen collected at the spot and succeeded in getting the boat off the rock and through the rapids, after which it arrived safely at Morgan's ferry."



Lorenzo P. Munn crossing Connecticut River at Munn's Ferry, around 1885.



Young Gill folks crossing Connecticut River to Northfield at Munn's Ferry in 1914.



Fred Shantley, last Gill ferryman, at wire rope of Munn's Ferry in 1934.



Main Road to Gill Center by the Hosley farmstead, turn of century.

Chapter 12

SOME 1736 LAND ALLOTMENTS LOCATED

When the allotments of land "North of Cheapside and East of Green River" were made in 1736, each grantee in the order determined by the draft chose the number of acres to which he was entitled wherever and however he pleased. The land was not laid out by the Proprietors according to any plan, the bounds and location of each allotment being left entirely to the preference of the grantee. The first lot was laid out April 22, 1736, and under several competent surveyors the work progressed rapidly. Lots in the 2nd Division began to receive attention in August, and surveys continued until November, when the advent of winter probably suspended further work. Action was resumed in the following year, but many lots were unclaimed during the periods devoted to the 2nd Division, and it was years later before some of them were finally taken up, and a few apparently were never laid out.

In between the allotments there were left many gores of land still owned by the Proprietors, and much of this "common land" was later granted to prospective settlers, or to persons already located upon adjoining lots. In 1791 there was an estimated 1,500 acres of this common land still remaining, and the Proprietors sold it in its entirety to George Grennell on May 12, 1791. Mr. Grennell conveyed the remainder unsold by him to David Squires on June 17, 1797. Mr. Squires left Gill soon afterward, but continued to dispose of holdings through a local representative. Twenty-five years later, when taxes on the outstanding tracts were in arrears, the town sold the combined acreage at public vendue on May 6, 1822 to John Lyon for \$363.80, on his bid of \$4.28 per acre for the estimated 85 acres, 12 rods.

Although the Proprietors' Book contains carefully drawn plans of the allotments in each division, the descriptions of bounds are often too indefinite to determine exact locations. The recorded deeds of subsequent sales sometimes give more specific descriptions and name adjoining landowners, and in this way fuller information can be obtained. Many of the early grantees, however, never recorded their purchases, and complete details are consequently not available in all cases.

It would involve much time and labor to attempt to trace all the various lots that compose the Town of Gill, but by confining attention to that part of the town directly above Gill Center, it has been possible to

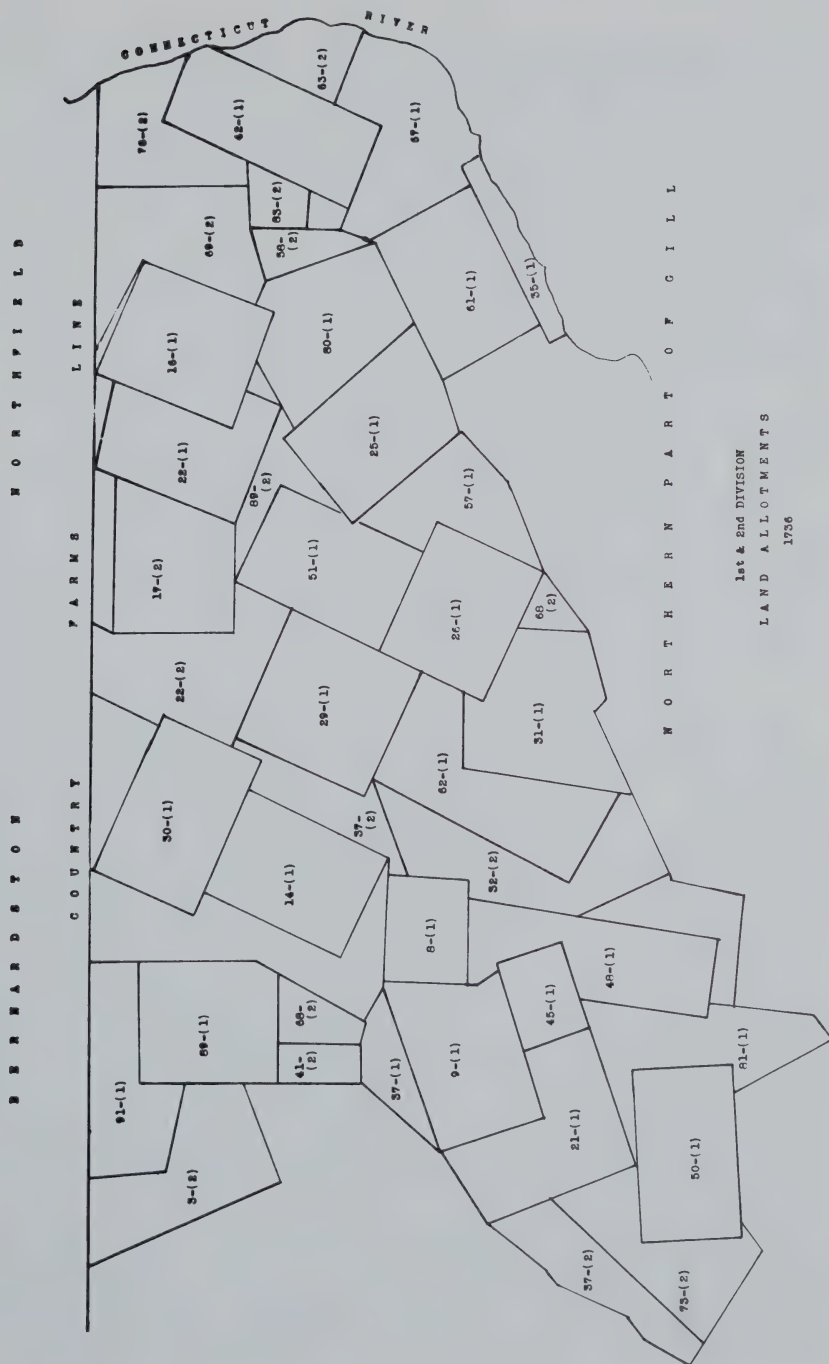
assemble lots together with a fair degree of accuracy, and although much small detail has necessarily been omitted, a general outline of the original allotments in proper position is set forth in the accompanying illustration.

As soon as settlers located upon the lots, many sales of land took place to improve boundaries, and subsequent further partitions have so complicated the areas that today most of the original bounds have disappeared, and few of the present farms adhere to the limits of the original allotment. Yet, although the present boundaries may differ widely from those first laid out, it is possible to locate the lots from which they have developed, and the following summary will identify a few of the lots illustrated in the northeast section of the town.

The Hinsdale heirs drew Lot. No. 78 in the 2nd Division, and 43 acres of the allotment were laid out on the Connecticut River below the town line of that time. The land in Northfield, separated from this lot by the Country Farms, was owned by the Severance family, and the lot was sold to Ebenezer Severance, Jr. on July 25, 1761. The intervening strip within the Country Farms was also purchased by Mr. Severance, and members of the family lived on the tracts for several generations.

John Munn in 1743 bought Samuel Bardwell's Lot No. 67 in the 1st Division, and in 1746 added to his holdings by purchasing from William Arms Lot No. 43 in the 1st Division and also Lot No. 83 in the 2nd Division. The well-known farm of the late Lewis C. Munn was part of John Munn's original property, possessed by the family for almost two-hundred years.

Lot No. 16 in the 1st Division and Lot No. 69 in the 2nd Division, drawn by the Hinsdale heirs, were deeded to Richard Cary on March 5, 1761. The northern part of this farm, owned in succession by Elisha Stebbins, Elisha Hunt, Daniel Severance, and Samuel P. Hale, now is the property of the Jackson heirs, and was the part upon which Richard Cary lived. To his son, Seth Cary, he conveyed 70 acres of the southern part of his farm on July 19, 1765, having already made over to him some 10 or 15 acres for which no deed was ever recorded. Forty of the 80 odd acres were the southwestern half of Lot No. 16, the balance being made up of adjoining land in Lot No. 69, intersected by the highway. Seth Cary built his homestead on the brow of the land above the highway, and there he lived until he removed to Brandon, Vt., in 1797, when the property was sold to Elisha Starkweather. Peter Jacobs acquired the farm on October 24, 1812, sold it on February 6, 1815 to James Day, who in turn sold it to Gilbert Richards on December 15, 1826. Flavel Stockwell was the next occupant, and the house now owned by Bertsall Cornell stands on the site of Seth Cary's homestead. A 30-acre strip on the west side of



the highway, beside the land owned by Seth Cary, was deeded by Richard Cary to his son, Jesse Cary, on June 1, 1772. It was soon afterward sold to Samuel Warner who never recorded the deed, though he mortgaged the property to John Eastman on August 1, 1783. Dr. Elisha Hollister was the owner for some time, then Benjamin Jacobs, and after him, Samuel Hale. This part of the Cary farm was the land now located between the Jackson farm and the North Cross Road.

Samuel Warner, by some unrecorded process, also became the owner of the part of Lot No. 58 in the 2nd Division laid out south of the Cary farms to the heirs of Samuel Taylor. John Munn, Jr. appears to have acquired the north part of the lot, as he conveyed it to his son, Joel Munn. Samuel Warner sold the balance of Lot. No. 58, including the land already in use as a cemetery, to Ebenezer Slate on October 23, 1787. Mr. Slate located his farm buildings upon this plat of ground, the sale by Warner having also included some 60 acres on the opposite side of the highway. Twenty-five years afterward, Mr. Slate, reserving a life lease, made the property over to his son-in-law, Rufus Wrisley, who transferred it to Bethuel Slate, Ebenezer's son, on May 21, 1814. Peter Delvy, who came to Gill from Warwick in 1834, was the next in line of possession, and occupied the premises until his death in 1869. The farm is now owned by Joseph Zwyna.

Nathaniel Frary's Lot No. 22 in the 1st Division was deeded on July 5, 1763 to Samuel Wrisley. In the following year he conveyed the northern half to Noah Munn, whose descendants, the Martindales, still possess a portion of it. Mr. Wrisley then bought the Dickinson Lots No. 35 and 61 in the 1st Division adjoining the Munn properties on the Connecticut River, which with some additions made up the farm later owned by Samuel Stoughton, and afterward by his sons, Asa and Ira Stoughton, and now comprises much of the farm on the east side of the highway owned by Peleg W. Eddy.

Zephaniak Thayer from Bolton, Conn., bought John Catlin's Lot No. 17 in the 2nd Division on July 26, 1777, and sold the east half of it to Abner Severance on April 13, 1785. The west half was sold on December 4, 1788 to Isaac Johnson who occupied the premises for ten years and then sold it on March 4, 1799 to Job Woodward from Guilford, Vt., who conveyed it to James Tyler in 1803. Consider Cushman and Alvah Hastings were later occupants, and Samuel Day is the present owner.

Samuel Barnard's Lot No. 22 in the 2nd Division, after possession in turn by Gershom and Benjamin Wrisley, Ephraim Andrews, Mero-dach Smith, and Theophilus Griswold, came finally into the possession of the Kenney family who retained the ownership for many years. La-

throp Cushman lived there at one time, and the commodious farm buildings were destroyed by fire some years afterward. The adjoining farm on the North Cross Road at the town line, once generally known as "the Parks's Place," also is partially located on Lot No. 22.

Another lot drawn by Samuel Barnard was Lot No. 80 in the 1st Division, and from it Barnard Hill derived its name. Isaiah Hosley bought it on June 29, 1791, and his son, John J. Hosley, sold it in 1825 to Elijah Hayden who conveyed it to John McHard in 1831. Six years later it was purchased by John A. Tenney, and for nearly thirty years was the well-known "Tenney Farm." Leonard Severance acquired the property in 1865, and the main portion of the original lot is at present owned by Peleg W. Eddy and occupied by his son, Luther S. Eddy.

Lot No. 25 in the 1st Division, drawn by the Hinsdale heirs, was bought on November 11, 1769 by Benjamin Hosley, who conveyed the northeastern half adjacent to Lot No. 80 to his son, Jonathan Jewett Hosley, on February 24, 1780. When Jonathan J. Hosley removed to Michigan in 1833, he sold the farm to Perrin N. Richards, having in the meantime acquired the other half of the lot. Mr. Richards sold the property on July 6, 1847 to John Wilder, Jr., whose heirs conveyed it to Asa O. Stoughton on March 3, 1864. Anthony R. Kendrow is the present owner by deed from Frank F. Stoughton, Asa's son.

David Wrisley in 1762 bought Lots No. 26 and 57 in the 1st Division from Thomas Wells, 2nd. Mr. Wrisley built his house on the highway near the crest of Davis's Hill, but when the property came into the possession of Adolphus L. Hosley, he built a farmhouse at a slightly lower site. William Jarvis Moore later occupied it for some years, and it now is owned by John Kislowksi. Mr. Wrisley also bought in 1767 Nathaniel Frary's Lot No. 51 in the 1st Division upon part of which his son, Asahel Wrisley, settled. The property passed to Asahel's son-in-law, John Chase, and the Chase Tavern remained a familiar landmark until recently destroyed by fire. Elijah Wrisley bought the Hinsdale Lot No. 29 in the 1st Division, and settled on what is now the farm of William Glenn Boyle. Eleazer Wrisley, also a son of David Wrisley, took up several tracts of land on the southwestern side of Davis's Hill, one of them being Lot No. 68 in the 2nd Division. On this triangular piece of land, or "Three-square," as it was called in the Proprietors' records, was located the first house occupied by Reverend Josiah W. Canning, and also the tavern built by Benjamin Jacobs, later long known as the "Phelps's Tavern." The house now standing was built about one-hundred years ago by Lewis P. Platt for his brother-in-law, Prentice Slate, and Mr. Slate sold it on May 3, 1846 to Mrs. Ann Atkinson who in the following years married Obed Morgan. Joseph B. Marble acquired the

property on January 20, 1868, and it is now owned by his grandson, Walter J. Marble.

Lot No. 31 in the 1st Division, drawn by the Hinsdale heirs, was bought by Ithamar Allen. It included the land upon which the church now stands, and much of the farm owned by Joseph Niedbala, extending westward to the discontinued road upon which the farm owned by Frank Zak was located. Within its bounds lay the present Village of Gill Center, the farm once owned by Dr. Joel Lyons, and the larger farm successively owned by Reverend John Jackson, Reverend William Riddell, and Henry Ewers, the old cellar hole of the farmhouse still being outlined near the Center Road in the pasture at the rear of the house recently built by Emile M. Dubreuil. Water from the old well still supplies campers on the land.

John Hawks sold his Lot No. 32 in the 2nd Division, westwardly of Lot No. 31, on "the road to the falls," on November 16, 1771 to David Gains who deeded to Solomon Denio the part bounded by the highway. Thomas Wells bought that part on March 18, 1782, and in the following year conveyed it to Moses Ballard, who sold it to his nephew, Elijah Ballard, on July 25, 1816. Before removing to Bristolville, Ohio, Elijah Ballard sold the property on April 9, 1817 to his brother, Alvah Ballard, who lived there for the following twenty years when title passed to John Bates on January 5, 1836. Elmer Howe bought it on March 20, 1841, sold it on August 28, 1850 to Elisha Clapp, and the property has been part of the family estate since that time.

Jeremiah Allen bought Daniel Arms's Lot No. 48 in the 1st Division, and sold the 40-acre half of it adjacent to the highway to Benjamin Hosley, Jr., on January 9, 1776. Mr. Hosley also bought the gore of common land between this purchase and Lot No. 32 from the Proprietors on April 29, 1782, and portions of those properties are still possessed by Francis L. Hosley.

Jeremiah Darling in 1782 bought the larger part of Lot No. 62 in the 1st Division, and it remained in the Darling family until 1816 when it was sold to James Blake from Warwick who lived upon it for three years and then conveyed it to Charles B. Stevens. Samuel Harris occupied it in 1825, and in 1843 title passed to his son-in-law, Pascal Marvel. Frank L. Baker is the present owner.

Otter Pond in West Gill lies within Lot No. 3 in the 2nd Division, and the West Gill Road starts from the town line in the gore of common land between Lots No. 30 and 91 in the 1st Division.

Two lots that do not appear on the illustrated chart can also be easily traced:

Lot No. 61 in the 2nd Division, drawn by Samuel Field, was sold on

August 17, 1772 by his son, David Field, to David Brown of Glocester, R.I., though the deed of conveyance called "of Glocester, N.Y." George Howland purchased it on April 20, 1773 and lived upon the property until the death of his father, when he acquired the original Howland homestead. He then sold Lot No. 61 to Pierce Chase on October 22, 1798. The blacksmith, Benjamin Green, acquired it on November 27, 1802, and sold it on March 29, 1809 to Deacon John Barns. Through a series of mortgages involving the State Bank of Boston and the State of Connecticut, the property on November 8, 1820 came into the possession of Thomas Sheldon of Westfield who one week later on November 15, 1820 sold it to John Brooker, a resident of Washington in Berkshire County. In the settlement of Mr. Brooker's estate, it was bought on April 2, 1850 by John Scott, an Englishman, employed in the Old Stone Mill in Factory Hollow. The property passed to Alvin Severance on March 2, 1857, and it is now known as the "Fred A. Severance farm."

Samuel Childs sold his Lots, No. 78 in the 1st Divison and No. 16 in the 2nd Division, to the Reverend Jonathan Ashley on April 16, 1754. To those 138 acres, Mr. Ashley added 58 adjoining acres purchased from Timothy Childs and George Howland, and the 196-acre farm was sold by Mr. Ashley's heirs to Bela Orcutt on December 9, 1790. Eight years later Mr. Orcutt removed to New Salem, having exchanged farms with Samuel Rice, by whom it was sold to Jacob Bates on September 23, 1801. Walter Brown bought it on December 3, 1810, and sold it on March 1, 1820 to Jabez F. Bissell, who deeded the farm to his brother, John W. Bissell, on February 21, 1827. Through various transactions of sale and purchase, the farm then comprised some 217 acres. David Henry bought it on July 5, 1832, and ten years later sold it to Roswell Field. Until Mr. Field's death, forty years afterward, the farm was one of the outstanding farms in Gill. The greater part of it is now owned by Mrs. Emma M. Chappell.

Chapter 13

EARLY FAMILY BIOGRAPHIES

ALLEN. John, son of Edward the emigrant, settled in Deerfield in 1685, and both he and his wife were killed by the Indians in the attack on Deerfield in May 1704. The earliest of the family to settle here was Noah, a grandson of John the Deerfield settler. About the year 1797, Noah with his sons, Apollos and Noah, Jr., removed to Sherburne, N.Y., where Noah, Jr., died within a few years and his widow with her four children returned to Gill. The Reverend Edward P. Allen, son of Marsena Allen and grandson of Apollos, was one of the first missionaries to Harpoot (Harpur), Turkey. Ithamar Allen, son of John and nephew of Noah, was also an early settler. He married Chloe Wrisley, bought the Hinsdale Lot No. 31 adjacent to the property of his father-in-law, and on Woodward's Brook erected the first gristmill here. He removed to Northfield, Vt., in early 1798, and excepting his son, Ithamar, Jr., who married and remained in Northfield, there is little known concerning the subsequent history of his family. John Allen, brother of Ithamar, also lived in Gill for a time. He was a weaver by trade, and does not appear to have been a landowner while here. About 1810, he removed to Sherburne, N.Y., where his uncle, Noah Allen, had already settled.

Jeremiah Allen, unrelated to the foregoing family, a native of Salisbury and a descendant of William Allen, came here from Rockingham, Vt. in 1765 with wife and four or five sons. The births of three children were recorded after his settlement here. He was referred to in records as "Jeremiah Allen Esq." He served in the Revolutionary War, as did also his three sons, Benjamin, Henry, and Moses.

Another Allen family, with no connection to the other Allens, was the Cornelius Allen family of French extraction. According to family records, Cornelius Allen was born in the City of Brest, France, where his father was a shipbuilder. When the "Reign of Terror" under Robespierre was at its height during the French Revolution, Cornelius and a younger brother were shipped by their father on one of his vessels, in order that they might be removed from the chaotic conditions in which France was then involved. The vessel on which they sailed was shipwrecked. Cornelius was picked up by a ship bound on a long voyage, but was transferred to another vessel that landed him in Boston with a shilling in his pocket that had been given him by the captain of the ves-

sel. He was then about eighteen years of age, and believing that he would find the country more hospitable than the city, set forth on foot, following whatever highway his fancy chose. He reached the vicinity of Barre, in Massachusetts, before finding any one who could converse with him understandingly. The village minister, on learning his history, gave him shelter and work on his farm. He learned the trade of a stonemason, and lived for a time in Townshend, Vt., before coming to Gill to work for Isaiah Merrill, the builder of the Old Stone Mill so long a landmark on the bank of Fall River in Factory Hollow. He never knew what fate overtook the brother who set sail with him, nor was he ever able to get in touch with any of his relatives left in France.

BALLARD. David Ballard, born April 1, 1723, was the son of Humphrey Ballard who had come to Windham, Conn. from Andover, where his grandfather, William, had been made a freeman in 1638. Samuel Stevens, the first husband of David's grandmother, was one of the unfortunate soldiers under Captain Thomas Lathrop slain at Bloody Brook in Deerfield. David came to Sunderland at an early age, married, and in 1758 purchased a large tract of land at "Great Falls" in what later became the Town of Montague. About 1760 he started operation of the ferry that for more than a hundred years accommodated the towns of Montague and Gill before the erection of the Red Suspension Bridge in 1878. In 1782 he sold the ferry privileges to Captain Elisha Mack, and with his sons, Philip and Jeremiah, settled in Gill where his son, Moses, was already located. Moses Ballard, and his wife's family, the Morleys, were probably the first to leave Gill to settle in Bristolville, Ohio, to which place several other families removed later.

Philip Ballard had served in the Revolutionary War and had been a selectman in Montague before settling in Gill, where he became prominently connected with town interests as soon as the town was incorporated. He served as town clerk and treasurer for ten years, and was several times a selectman. He was elected a deacon of the church to succeed the first deacon, Moses Bascom, Sr., who died in 1805. Deacon Ballard faithfully performed until 1819 when he resigned "because of age and infirmity." His span of life, however, did not end until some sixteen years later, when he was laid to rest at the ripe old age of eighty-eight. The later years of his life were spent on the farm now owned by Ernest E. Blake.

Elijah Ballard and his Bascom wife, who was called Sophia in the town records, but who signed her name Sophronia, were prime movers in the project that led many Gill families to join those already settled at Bristolville, Ohio. Elijah was accompanied by his brother, Oren Ballard,

who became the father of Judge Edwin A. Ballard of Fort Collins and Denver, Colorado. Edwin Ballard was teaching school and studying law at the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted as a private, and held the rank of lieutenant at his discharge in 1865. Admitted to the bar, he began practice in Ohio, and was prosecuting attorney of Allen County from 1872 to 1874. In 1880 he settled in Fort Collins, having practiced law for two years previously in the State of Utah. In 1886 he was elected to the Colorado state senate and served for four years. He achieved much reputation in 1891 by his forceful prosecution of the celebrated "Millington-Avery case." Judge Ballard was recognized as one of Colorado's leading jurists.

Jeremiah Ballard settled on what in later years was known as the "Oliver B. Greene farm," where William B. DuMont has recently erected his modern dwelling, from which on a clear day a person with a good telescope can look into four neighboring states, and count some two dozen communities spread upon the landscape. Chester Hillman and Asa Andrus who married Jeremiah's youngest daughter were among those who removed to Bristolville, Ohio. Jeremiah's son, Amaziah, however, remained in Gill to become the father of eleven daughters with many descendants in this vicinity.

BASCOM. Thomas Bascom, the progenitor of this family, was in Dorchester as early as 1634, but soon joined the colony at Windsor, Conn. In 1661 he was one of the founders of Northampton. Thomas, Jr., was among those who attempted the first settlement of Northfield, abandoned during King Philip's War. Ezekiel Bascom, grandson of Thomas, Jr., settled in Deerfield, and his son, Moses, became the first settler in the Fall River section of Greenfield, now known as West Gill. He took a prominent part in Greenfield town and church affairs, serving as selectman, town clerk and treasurer, and as deacon in the church. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1788. He likewise became actively connected with town and church matters in Gill when the town was set off from Greenfield. He was chairman of the first board of selectmen, and the first deacon of the church. Moses Bascom, Jr. was the first town clerk and treasurer of Gill. He died suddenly from a stroke of apoplexy at the age of fifty-five while in attendance at the General Court in Boston as representative for Gill. Ezekiel Lysander Bascom, son of Moses, Sr., was graduated from Dartmouth College and entered the ministry. After his retirement from a long pastorate in Ashby, he and his wife, Ruth (Henshaw) Bascom, returned to Gill to live in the old Bascom homestead on Fall River. "Aunt Ruth," as the minister's wife was affectionately called by relatives and neighbors alike, possessed a flair for

portraiture, and her likenesses were executed with an originality that did not hesitate to place real tinfoil spectacles upon the nose of Reverend Timothy Rogers whose portrait hangs in the Unitarian Church in Bernardston, or to paste bits of gold paper to represent the beads in the string around the slender neck of Hannah Chapin Hoyt. Mrs. Bascom's unique portraits are highly prized and cherished by their present owners. George Bascom, son of George Washington Bascom and grandson of Moses, Jr., served in the Civil War as Captain of Company B, 51st Regt., M.V.M. from September 30, 1862 until July 27, 1863. He had previously given three months service in 1861 as a Lieutenant in Co. B, 3rd Battalion Mass. Rifles. Ezekiel Lysander Bascom, son of Athenadorus, learned the trade of a stonemason and became expert in stonemasonry. With the assistance of Alvah Martin, he built the stone arched railroad bridge over Fall River in Bernardston, a piece of construction that won a wide reputation for him.

There are many Bascom descendants in this vicinity, though no one by the name now lives in Gill.

BISSELL. Jabez Bissell was born on April 11, 1721 in Windsor, Conn., where the family had lived continuously for five generations, the descendants of John Bissell, who had settled there in 1640. His maternal grandmother, Alice (Bradford) Fitch, was a granddaughter of William Bradford of the Mayflower. Jabez Bissell also lived in Hebron and Somers, Conn., before removing to Springfield in 1776, in which place he was a licensed innholder from 1778 to 1785. The family then came to Gill, probably because a daughter, Jerusha, had been living in what is now the Montague City part of Montague since her marriage to Josiah Burnham some ten years earlier. Although no deeds are recorded to show any ownership of property here, Jabez and his son, William, are listed in the 1790 census as the heads of families, living evidently in the Pisgah section of Gill, and the tradition of a Bissell farm on the plain above Pisgah has been recalled by older inhabitants. The Gill church records mention the admittance of William Bissell to membership on April 5, 1807, and in 1816 he witnessed the deed to a sale of land by Oliver Bissell, presumably his son, who then removed from Gill. No further records of William have been found, and it is assumed that he left Gill in company with his son.

Jonathan Marsh Bissell, the younger son of Jabez, bought Captain Elisha Mack's sawmill on the Montague side of Great Falls together with the ferry rights, and evidently prospered in his undertakings. While the family lived in Springfield, he served in the Revolutionary Army for seven months as a substitute for his father, although he was only seven-

teen years old at the time. His first wife, the mother of all his children, was a sister of Consider Cushman of Bernardston, who married Rhoda Gaines of Gill, and afterward came here to live.

Two of Jonathan Marsh Bissell's sons lived for a time in Gill. Jabez Fitch Bissell, like his father, was a sawmill operator, and in partnership with Ephraim Upham in 1813 bought the sawmill at the end of the dam on the Gill side of the river. Four years later he married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Bascom the Factory Hollow clothier, and their two oldest children were born in that part of Greenfield. He then moved to Gill, having bought the property later well-known as "the Roswell Field farm." In addition to his sawmill interests, he also had large investments in real estate and mortgages. He removed to Dummerston, Vt., about 1830, and some time later to LeRoy, N.Y., where descendants are still to be found.

Just before his removal to Dummerston, Jabez Fitch Bissell sold his farm to his brother, John Winthrop Bissell, a hatter by trade and like his brother, also an extensive dealer in real estate and mortgages, who took great pride in the fact that he was never forced to resort to law to collect a debt. He married Sophia, daughter of Samuel and Anna (Barney) Shepardson of Guilford, Vt., and their six children were born in Gill.

Gustavus, the oldest son, taught school for several years and then went to California at the time of the "gold rush." About twenty years later he returned east and settled on a fruit farm near Bridgeville, Del. Amandarin Bissell was a hardware merchant in Oswego, N.Y., for some years, then removed to New Haven, Conn., where he died suddenly from a heart attack while riding a bicycle. Milton, the third son, was associated with his brother Amandarin in the hardware business in Oswego for a time, and then settled on a farm in Jamestown, N.Y. Ellen Sophia, the oldest daughter, married John Clark Cushman and removed to Indiana. Ida Melissa, the other daughter, married Smith R. Phillips, whose brother, Henry Phillips, became mayor of Springfield, Mass., and afterward, Treasurer of the Commonwealth. Elijah Shepardson Bissell, the youngest of the family, lived in Montague for a number of years, and then removed to Plymouth, Ind., where he was a successful merchant.

CARY. Richard Cary was the grandson of a soldier in the Narragansett War named Arthur Cary, also called "After Cary" in records, an inhabitant of Rowley Village, later the Town of Boxford, Mass. Richard's father, also named "Arthur" or "After," was one of those who settled in Leicester, Mass., about 1714, and the hill on which he located his homestead is known to this day as "Cary Hill." Ten years later he purchased some 300 acres of land bordering on the towns of Leicester, Oxford, and

Brookfield, Mass. in a section known as "The Country Gore" or "No Town," as the land at the time was part of no incorporated township. In 1728 he was one of twelve heirs of Narragansett soldiers to whom the Massachusetts General Court allotted Quabbin. Later he lived in Worcester or Mendon, and died over eighty years of age in New Salem, Mass., where his son Stephen had settled.

In 1741 Richard sold his 40 acres of land in "The Country Gore," and came to Deerfield where his brother-in-law, James Tute, was living. The Deerfield town records show that Richard Cary in 1741 received the customary "warning to depart" issued to new arrivals, at which time he was unmarried, but must have married his wife Anna soon afterward. He was a soldier in the French and Indian Wars with his name listed on a military roll in 1748. He also saw service in the Lake George Campaign in 1758, at which time he must have been living on his farm here in Gill, then Greenfield. Although he did not receive title to his 160 acres until 1761, he had been living on the land for some years.

Richard's sons, Seth and Jesse, both served in the Revolutionary War, but neither remained here permanently. Seth left Gill in 1797 to settle in Brandon, Vt. Jesse, after a few years spent in Great Barrington, Mass., removed to Cherry Valley, N.Y. Although no record gives proof. Simeon Cary was undoubtedly another son, born after the family left Deerfield. He also served in the Revolutionary War, and died, a pensioner, in Maine where he had settled in the vicinity of Camden. Seth Cary, Jr., was one of the first to settle in the part of Colchester, Vt., once known as Caryville, and is now the Town of Winooski.

Although there are none by the name of Cary now in Gill, Richard has many descendants here through his daughter Dorothy who married Oliver Hastings.

An entirely separate family was the Carey family descended from John Cary who came to Plymouth in one of the ships that followed the Mayflower. The Gill branch of the family came here from Mansfield, Conn., by way of Middlefield and Williamsburg. Joseph Carey, the Gill settler, came at the time the Montague canal projects were being started under the direction of his uncle, Captain Elisha Mack. Joseph's mother, Phebe, sister of Captain Mack, died in Williamsburg on November 30, 1822, aged ninety-four. According to her obituary published in the "Hampshire Gazette," January 1, 1823, she and her husband, Deacon Joseph Carey, removed from Mansfield, Conn., to Williamsburg in 1756, and were the seventh family located there.

CHILDS. Timothy Childs, Jr., who later attained prominence as Captain Timothy Childs, was the third permanent settler here. His farm beside

the falls in the Connecticut included the site of the engagement between Captain William Turner and the Indians, in which Timothy's grandfather, Japhat Chapin, had fought. Also in the fight was the boy hero, Jonathan Wells, grandfather of Timothy's wife, Mary Wells. Timothy's father also performed much service in the early French and Indian Wars, and was captain of a company with men stationed at Deerfield and Sunderland. Probably Timothy, Jr., gained his early military training in his father's company.

When Timothy settled here the land was still a part of the Township of Deerfield, but within a few years it was set off as the District of Greenfield, in the affairs of which Timothy Childs was destined to play a part of considerable prominence. He was captain of a company in the last French War, and after the outbreak of the Revolution was elected captain of the Third Company, Fifth Hampshire County Regiment on April 22, 1776, and duly commissioned by the Council of Massachusetts Bay sitting at Watertown. He saw active service on several occasions and led his company to Ticonderoga against Burgoyne. He was also influential in town affairs. He served several terms as selectman, and as a member of important committees, one of which was the 1775 "Committee of Correspondence." In his later years he frequently acted as moderator of the town meetings.

Captain Timothy Childs had male descendants in the direct line only through his son, Dr. Timothy Childs, Jr., of Pittsfield, who led forth a company in response to the alarm of Concord and Lexington, and afterward served as a surgeon in the Revolutionary Army. Dr. Childs not only had a distinguished medical career, but also performed notable service in the Massachusetts State Legislature as representative for nine years and as senator for seven years.

Dr. Childs educated his sons at Williams College, and three of them, Perry Green, David Wells, and Timothy, 3rd, became lawyers who located in New York State at Cazenovia, Utica, and Rochester, respectively. Another son, Henry Halsey, followed his father's profession and became a doctor. He organized the Berkshire Medical Institution in Pittsfield in which he was a professor for many years. In 1844 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. The youngest son, Thomas Wells, received an appointment to West Point and made a brilliant military record. He rose to the rank of Brigadier General, and served with distinction in the Florida War.

FOOTE. Obed Foote, a native of Waterbury, Conn., came to Gill in 1784 after a residence of four years in Rowe, where he had built the first two-story house. He was a man of considerable means and position, and is

reputed to have been an ardent supporter in the movement that resulted in Shays's Rebellion.

He brought a large family to Gill, an eleventh child being born after the arrival here, but his death in 1797 and the marriage of his widow in the following year to Reverend Jonathan Leavitt of Heath broke up the family ties, and the children scattered widely. Lydia, who married Job Goodale and died in Bernardston, was the only one to remain in this vicinity for a lifetime. Erastus Foote studied law, lived for a time in Northampton, and served a term as state senator. He removed to Camden, Me., where he became attorney general of the state. Obed's grandson, Elial Todd Foote, born in Gill, also became a lawyer. He settled in Jamestown, N. Y., where he held the office of judge for more than twenty years.

GUELLOW. Several French youths, who are supposed to have been impressed as sailors by the British, appeared in Norton, Mass., about the year 1760. Among them was Francis Guellow, who in 1790 obtained title to the 2nd Division Severance Lot No. 9 in West Gill, having located on the property some ten years earlier. Francis, Jr., the oldest son who served in the Revolutionary War, remained in Norton, but seven other children accompanied their parents to Gill where three were afterward born. Maturin and John Guellow settled in Gilsum, N.H., and left a large number of descendants. Abel Guellow, late in life, joined his son, Francis D. Guellow, in Ohio. Although there are many Guellow descendants in this vicinity, few bear the name Guellow, or Guillow as the name now is preferably spelled.

HOSLEY. Benjamin Hosley, the first of the family to settle in Gill, was born in Billerica on May 16, 1721, the son of James Hosley, Jr., a native of Dorchester. Benjamin was six years old when his father died, and he then became the ward of Samuel Danforth, Jr. He married in Westford, Mass., on December 17, 1744. His wife, Lucy, was the daughter of Jonathan and Bethiah (Conant) Herrick, a descendant of Henry Herrick of Beverly, Mass., who is supposed to have been the fifth son of Sir William Herrick of Leicestershire County, England. Lucy's mother, Bethiah Conant, was the daughter of John of Beverly, grandson of Roger Conant the early settler on Cape Ann.

Benjamin Hosley lived in Westford for about ten years after his marriage and then removed to Westminster, Mass. Seven or eight years later, after a brief stay in Mendon, Mass., he was one of the petitioners for the Township of Shelburne in 1768, but in the following year he settled in Gill permanently. Four of his sons, Benjamin, Jr., Sampson, Jonathan Jewett, and Thomas served in the Revolutionary War. Benjamin, Jr., and

his brother, Isaiah, spent their lifetimes in Gill. Sampson lived in Shelburne for some years after his marriage, but in 1795 removed to Edinburgh, Saratogo Co., N.Y., where he died in his nineties. Jonathan Jewett Hosley raised his family in Gill but accompanied his son Jonathan Danforth Hosley to western New York in 1833. He died in 1836 in Michigan where most of his children eventually settled. Thomas, Benjamin's youngest son, was living in Bernardston in 1798 according to the Direct Tax Census, and on the death of Isaiah became the guardian of his brother's four sons. He served as one of the selectmen of Bernardston in 1804, but removed in the following year to Chesterfield, N.H., where he lived to the age of eighty-eight.

James Hosley, the oldest son of Isaiah, was blinded and terribly maimed by a blasting accident in Dunstable, Mass., in July, 1824. He died six years later in South Boston, an inmate of "The House of Industry," an asylum for the rehabilitation of the crippled and blind.

Luke Gibbs Hosley, the oldest son of Jonathan Jewett Hosley, began the study of medicine with the expectation of becoming a doctor, but enlisted in the War of 1812. He became clerk of the 40th Infantry Company stationed at Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, and after his discharge he taught school in Albany, N.Y., for a time previous to his marriage and settlement in Hillsboro, N.H. Luke's grandson Harry H. Hosley, son of Colonel Jonathan J. D. Hosley of the 26th Co. N.H. Militia, attended Norwich Military Academy in Vermont, and received an appointment to Annapolis Naval Academy where he was an instructor in mathematics for six years after his graduation. He saw active service in the Spanish-American War, and engineered the floating of the dry-dock "Dewey" to Manila, a feat for which he was highly applauded. He was afterward promoted to the rank of commander, which title he held at the time of his death in New York on January 8, 1908 at the age of fifty-two.

Jonathan Danforth Hosley, the younger son of Jonathan Jewett Hosley, removed from Gill in 1833 to the vicinity of Batavia, Genesee County, N.Y. In 1835 he went to Chicago with the hope of settling there, but finding land conditions unsatisfactory, proceeded to Branch County, Mich. He made two trips to California during the "Gold Rush" days, one in 1844 by sea from New York around Cape Horn, and the other overland from Michigan in 1850 with a company he had formed. In 1859 he took up government land in Anderson County, Kans., and settled there permanently. Three of his sons, Richard, Charles, and James, served in the Civil War, Charles and James being captured and confined in Tyler Prison in Texas. Descendants of the families are still to be found in Anderson County and Allen County in Kans.

The widow Martha McHard, daughter of Jonathan Jewett Hosley,

had the name McHard changed to Maynard and removed to Batavia, N.Y., where her son Harvey had already located. Charles Maynard, baptized Alphonzo Wells McHard, died in Salsberg Prison, Ga., during the Civil War, and Frank Maynard, son of Harvey, barely survived the hardships of war to reach home in Michigan.

Oralana Hosley, son of Benjamin, Jr., removed from Gill to Canton, St. Lawrence County, N.Y., at the time so many families left Gill in the year following the memorable winter of 1816 with its equally wintry spring and summer. In 1833 his sons, Benjamin and Edwin, started for Boston to become apprentices as stonecutters to their uncle Luther Munn who was proprietor of a monumental business in Quincy, where the well-known granite quarries are located. They traveled on foot through the Adirondack wilderness, and through Vermont to Gill where they rested for a time and then took the Boston stage at Millers Falls. On the death of Luther Munn, Benjamin Hosley, the surviving brother, became the proprietor of his uncle's business.

JANES. Samuel Janes, fifth in descent from William Janes the school-teacher and early settler in Northampton, located in Gill a few years previous to the incorporation of the town. His great-grandparents, Samuel and Sarah (Hinsdale) Janes, were both killed by the Indians on May 13, 1704 at Pascommuck near the foot of Mt. Tom during the French and Indian incursions under Hertel de Rouville. His father, Deacon Ebenezer Janes, was town clerk of Northfield for sixteen years, and the holder of many other important offices. Samuel acquired the land along the outlet of Woodward's Brook where the falls offered water power for a sawmill. Later he also erected a gristmill at a point above. Samuel, Jr., in company with his brother-in-law, Alvah Ballard, carried on the milling operations for many years, and also did an extensive business in the manufacture of buckets. Harris Janes, the oldest son of Samuel, Jr., removed from Gill to Crary's Mills near Canton, N.Y., in 1829 where he bought a farm and erected a sawmill. His son, Samuel Merriman Janes, with Luke Martin, accompanied the Hosley brothers in 1833 through the Adirondacks to Gill, and he went on to Boston with Hosleys to become an apprentice to Luther Munn. Luke Martin remained in Gill a-courtin'. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, Samuel M. Janes went to New York City where he entered into a partnership with Horace Beals in the granite business, making his home at Long Branch, N.J. Sylvanus Merriman Janes, brother of Harris, was also a granite mason, and lived for a time in Boston before removing to Iowa. There are none by the name of Janes in Gill now.

MUNN. John Munn, the first permanent settler within the limits of Gill,

was the son of Benjamin and Thankful (Nims) Munn. His parents passed unharmed through the destruction of Deerfield by the Indians on the 29th of February 1704 because the entrance to their dugout was so completely blanketed by snow that the Indians did not suspect its existence. His grandfather, John Munn, was one of the soldiers under Captain William Turner in the "Falls Fight" here at Peskeompscut. John, the settler, had been a soldier at Fort Dummer, and his sons, Noah and Elisha, served in the Revolutionary War. Noah also was a member of Gill's first Board of Selectmen. A portion of the farm bought by John Munn 200 years ago still remains in the possession of the family.

PARMENTER. Jason Parmenter came to Bernardston as one of the early settlers. He had previously spent some time in Petersham where his sister Elizabeth and her husband, Thomas Shattuck, had settled, and also in Athol after his marriage in 1753 to Abigail Frizzell of Shrewsbury. Jason was accompanied by his younger brothers, Josiah and Elias, all three being natives of Sudbury, sons of Deliverance and Ruth (Hayden) Parmenter, and grandsons of George and Mary (Burk) Parmenter. Their grandmother has been called Mary Burt and Mary Bent by various genealogical authorities, but that she was Mary Burk, the daughter of Richard and Mary (Parmenter) Burk is clearly indicated in the Middlesex County deed (Bk. 32, p. 461.) wherein Thomas Burk received from his two brothers, Richard and John, and from George and Mary Parmenter, husband and wife, their interests in the "estate of their honored mother."

Elias, who married Sybil Sheldon of Bernardston, always lived in that town, and the Parmenter families hereabouts are largely his descendants. Josiah married Bethiah Holton and settled on Grass Hill near the Holton properties. He was one of the petitioners for the annexation of that part of Northfield to Gill in 1793. A few families, descendants of his son Chester, still reside in this vicinity. Josiah, Jr., and his brother, Nathan, removed to Brandon, Vt., where their uncle, Seth Cary, had settled. Dolly Parmenter at times lived with brothers in Brandon, and there married General Joseph Foster of Barnard, Vt., although the "History of Barnard" tries to foist an entirely different member of the Parmenter family upon the general. Her nieces, Ruth Sophia and Dorothy Elvira Wrisley, both married Barnard men after their aunt settled in that town. The "Foster Genealogy" identifies her correctly.

Another Parmenter family that has been considerably confused with the families of these brothers, because of similarity of names, was the family of Reuben and Sarah (Potter) Parmenter. Reuben was a nephew of the three brothers, the son of Joshua and Persis (Parmenter) Parmen-

ter, Persis being a sister of Jason, Josiah, and Elias. Reuben and his wife severed their connection with the Sudbury church in 1783, and lived in Bernardston from that time till 1794 when they removed to the part of Hinsdale, N.H., then located on the west side of the Connecticut River, now part of the Town of Vernon, Vt.

Jason Parmenter served in the Revolutionary War and was also prominently associated with those who staged Shays's Rebellion, his principal connection with the Town of Gill being the tragedy incident to his pursuit through the town by the sheriff sent to arrest him, as is related in Chapter 26. He removed to Stoddard, N.H., and the history of that town states he lived to an advanced age, but does not mention the place or date of death. Jason's daughter, Cynthia, married her first cousin Oliver Parmenter, but the union did not prove compatible, as the following notice indicates:

Whereas CYNTHIA, the wife of me the Subscriber, has in violation of her marriage covenant, withdrawn herself from my bed and board and unjustly and without cause refuses to live with me—and whereas by her unfaithful behavior I have reason to fear she will endeavor to injure my interests by contracting debts on my account—I hereby notify and warn all persons against harbouring or giving her any credit for any matter whatever on my account, as I will not pay any demands made against me on her account.

OLIVER PARMENTER

Bernardston, April 14, 1790 (Hampshire Gazette, Northampton.)

Possibly this constituted a legality equivalent to a divorce as, although no divorce proceedings were subsequently advertised, both parties contracted a second marriage.

SLATE. The founder of this family according to tradition was a Daniel Slate who came to New England accompanied by two sons, and after some years returned to England alone. In confirmation of this tradition the Connecticut Colonial Records show that a Daniel Slate returned to England in 1745, who presumably was the father of Daniel Slate, age eighteen, and Samuel Slate, age fifteen, over whom "Mr. Thomas Welles of Hartford" was appointed guardian in 1726.

If the foregoing is correct, the son, Daniel, was born in England in 1707, and was approaching his 19th birthday in 1726. He married in 1731 at Norwich, Conn., Mary Sabin, whose father, Israel Sabin, was the son of Samuel and Mary (Billington) Sabin, Mary Billington being the daughter of Francis Billington who came on the Mayflower with his father, John Billington.

Daniel and Mary (Sabin) Slate came to Bernardston soon after the

year 1760, and at least seven of their twelve children accompanied them. A son, Ebenezer, married Martha Greene, settled in Gill, and they were the parents of Bethuel Slate, Captain of the Town Militia, whose grandson, Hollis Slate, was the donor of the Slate Memorial Library in Gill. Daniel and his wife spent the last years of their life in Gill at the home of Ebenezer. Daniel died there in February 1789 at the age of eighty-one, a further indication that he was the Daniel Slate born in 1707 for whom a guardian was appointed in 1726.

Joseph Slate, the eldest of Daniel and Mary (Sabin) Slate's children, came to Bernardston in 1763, and in the following years erected a log house in which he and his wife reared their eleven children, and in which he lived until his death. He was an important figure in the civil and military affairs of Bernardston and Hampshire County. He served in the French and Indian Wars, and during the Revolutionary War held first the rank of lieutenant, and then captain, in the 5th Hampshire County Regiment. He served Bernardston as a selectman from 1770 to 1782.

Samuel Slate, son of Captain Joseph, married Bathsheba Wrisley of Gill, and they were one of the earliest families to settle at Waterbury, Vt. Some fifteen years later Samuel brought his family back to Gill, and for many years lived in the old unpainted house, called, for some reason that has not been learned, the "Dick House," that stood about where the Jones store and Frank Mesic property are located. While he helped his son, Albert, operate the sawmill that stood at the end of the dam, he also acted as ferryman in the absence of the regular attendant. Bathsheba (Wrisley) Slate lies buried in the Riverside Cemetery at the rear of the Perry lot but the stone that marked the grave not long ago has now disappeared. Samuel Slate died in Springfield, Vt., where he spent his old age with his son, Warren, who spelled his name "Slade." Two other sons, Albert and Chandler, settled in Louisiana, and trace of their families has been lost. Another son, Samuel, married his cousin, Anna C. Rich, and they were the grandparents of Charles F. Slate who was the Northfield postmaster and tax collector for many years.

STOUGHTON. The first of this family in New England was Thomas Stoughton who came to Dorchester in 1630 as a member of one of the Winthrop companies. He was followed in 1632 by his brother, Israel, father of Judge William Stoughton who for many years was acting governor of Colonial Massachusetts. Thomas Stoughton was one of the early settlers of Windsor, Conn., and a delegate to the first Connecticut Assembly after the adoption of the Fundamental Orders, April 1639. Thomas Stoughton, Jr., married Mary Wadsworth, whose half-brother, Joseph Wadsworth, achieved a prominent place in Connecticut history

because of his "Charter Oak" exploit. Samuel Stoughton, a great-grandson of Thomas, Jr., was apprenticed at an early age to Samuel Wrisley, Jr., of Glastonbury, and when Mr. Wrisley settled in Gill about the year 1763, Samuel Stoughton accompanied him. He was a selectman and a member of numerous committees in Greenfield, and after the incorporation of the Town of Gill had much to do with its early church and town affairs. He was elected a second lieutenant under Captain Timothy Childs of the Third Company, Fifth Regiment of Hampshire County Militia, and saw active service in the Revolutionary War. Three of his sons, Timothy, Asa, and Ira, remained in Gill and became closely identified with the interests of the town. Samuel, Jr., married Prudence Grinnell of Leyden, a descendant of the "Mayflower Pilgrims," Richard Warren and Mary Chilton, and settled in Chateaugay, St. Lawrence County, N.Y. George Stoughton removed first to the Black River section of New York, and then to Logansport, Ind. Reuben Stoughton, son of Deacon Timothy, was graduated from Union College in 1837, and while at that institution was one of the founders of Kappa Alpha, the first Greek letter undergraduate fraternity. He taught school in Alabama for a time after his graduation, and then located at Jacksonville, Fla., where he conducted a general mercantile business. Charles Stoughton, son of Asa, established himself in New York City as an importer of teas. The "Soldiers and Sailors Monument" on Riverside Drive is the work of architects Charles and Arthur Stoughton, his sons. Urania, daughter of Deacon Ira Stoughton, became a writer of some distinction, and under the pen name of Julia Gill, contributed many poems to the "Saturday Evening Post," the "Congregationalist," and other periodicals of her day. In 1882, G. P. Putnam's Sons published a volume of her verse under the title "Star Flowers." She also wrote a number of books for children designed for Sunday School Library circulation, among which were "The People of Poplar Dell," "School at Eden," "Isabel's Trials," "The Crooked Tree," "Motherless Young Housekeeper," and others. "Legends of New England," "Holiday Tales," and "Fables and Facts" were written in collaboration with her sister, Frances Stoughton, who under the name of Frances Lee, also wrote a number of Sunday School books for children; among them were "Helen and her Sisters," "On a Candlestick," and "False Shame."

WRISLEY. Richard Risley, or Wrisley as the Gill family generally spelled the name, was one of the founders of Hartford, Conn., in 1636, and his name is engraved on the Founder's Monument in that city. Samuel, son of Richard, Jr., settled in Glastonbury, and was the father of Samuel, Jr., and David, the brothers who came to Gill about the year 1760. David and

his four sons bought up all the land directly north of Gill Center, and they are reputed to have owned a square mile of Gill property at one time. David, Jr., and his brother, Eleazer, both marched on the alarm from Bennington during the Revolutionary War, while another brother, Elijah, gave five years of continuous service. Gershom and Benjamin Wrisley, sons of Richard, brother of Samuel, Jr., and David, were also landowners in Gill and residents here for a time. Gershom removed to Hanover, N.H., while Benjamin, in company with son-in-law, Gideon Putnam, developed the mineral springs at Saratoga Springs. They built the first hotel erected there, the work being in charge of David Wrisley, 3rd, carpenter from Gill. Charles Wrisley, a grandson of David, Jr., was another Gill boy to find employment with Luther Munn as a stonecutter, and when Bunker Hill Monument was erected, the capstone was set in place by him. Alvah Wrisley, also a grandson of David, Jr., was the father of George A. and Allen B. Wrisley who went to Chicago in 1862 and started the manufacture of soap that developed into the Wrisley Brothers Soap Company, a concern that has long enjoyed a national reputation. Members of this numerous family have scattered widely, and although many descendants still reside in this vicinity, none now bear the name of Wrisley.

Chapter 14

SOME LATER FAMILY BIOGRAPHIES

ATHERTON. The founder of this family was Humphrey Atherton, one of the early captains of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston. The Gill family descends through his son, the Reverend Hope Atherton who was graduated from Harvard College in 1665, and was settled as a minister in Hatfield. The Reverend Hope was chaplain of the expedition under Captain William Turner in the "Falls Fight," and the narrative of his experiences has been fully told in Sheldon's "History of Deerfield." Oliver and Jonathan, grandsons of Reverend Hope's son, Joseph, were early settlers in Greenfield, and Jonathan's grandson, Zora, settled in Gill soon after his marriage in 1833. Two of his sons, William B. and Ralph L., served in the Civil War, and both were wounded, the latter losing an arm.

BARTON. The ancestral line of this family reaches back to the early days of Salem, where members of the family dwelt for several generations. Samuel Barton, grandson of Edward Barton, the emigrant, married Hannah Bridges. Hannah's mother married for her second husband, Peter Cloyse, and she was the Sarah Cloyse who with her sisters, Rebecca Nurse and Mary Easty, underwent trial during the Salem witchcraft delusion. Her sisters were hanged, and she narrowly escaped the same fate. Samuel Barton removed to Framingham, and later to Oxford, where his great-great-grandson, Benjamin, was born. Benjamin Barton in 1823 acquired the George Howland property in Gill with its familiar "Old Red House" still standing. Leonard, son of Benjamin, taught school for many years, including one year spent in Michigan, and succeeding to the management of his father's property on the death of his brother, Benjamin, became well known as one of the substantial farmers of the county. Henry B. Barton, Leonard's nephew, continued in his uncle's footsteps, and for forty years also served the Town of Gill as town clerk and treasurer. George L. Barton, brother of Henry, entered the legal profession after his graduation from Harvard College, located at Turners Falls when the new settlement was a growing village, and had begun a career of much promise as a lawyer when he died of pneumonia at the age of thirty-four. Harriet I. Barton, sister of Henry B. and George L., was graduated from

the Meadville, Pa., Theological School, and entered the Unitarian ministry. Lyman G. Barton, a cousin of Leonard, was a member of the Board of County Commissioners for many years.

BLAKE. William Blake was an early settler in Dorchester, where he was made a freeman in 1639. He held the office of town clerk at the time of his death in 1663. His great-grandson, James Blake, the author of "Blake's Annals," also served Dorchester as town clerk and treasurer. Jonathan Blake, grandson of James, removed to Warwick in the closing days of the Revolutionary War, in which he had given service. His son, James, in 1816 settled in Gill on what was later known as the "Marvel farm" now owned by Frank L. Baker. He remained here only for a year or two, but while here a son, Jonathan, was born, who in 1858 returned to his native town and acquired the Alsetus Roberts property, once the farm of Deacon Philip Ballard, now owned by Ernest E. Blake, Jonathan's grandson.

BROWN. The progenitor of the present Brown family in Gill was John Brown, a Scotchman. He first appeared in Cambridge about 1653, and this fact indicates that he came to Massachusetts probably as one of the Scotch prisoners taken by Cromwell at the battle of Dunbar, or at Worcester, a great number of whom were deported by Cromwell, and many reached New England. He married in 1655, Hester, daughter of Thomas Makepiece of Dorchester and Boston. He removed to Marlboro in 1663; in 1677 he was living at Falmouth, now Portland, Me., but some years later returned to Massachusetts, and died in Watertown in 1697 or 1698. The deed to the property he purchased in Marlboro (Middlesex County Deeds, Bk. 3, p. 143) termed him a "Scotchman," and it is fortunate that the document so designated him, as statements have been made that he was a son of John Brown of Watertown, a family to which he did not belong.

Joseph, his youngest son, inherited the father's property, took a prominent part in Watertown affairs, and for a time was town clerk. About 1710 he removed to Lexington where he died in 1744, having officiated as a deacon in the Lexington church for over thirty years. His son, Josiah, was educated for the ministry. Before removing to Lexington, Joseph married Ruhama Wellington, a granddaughter of Dr. Richard Palgrave, who came to Charlestown with the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, and was known as a "godly man and a skilled surgeon."

Joseph, Jr., settled in Holliston, and his son, Joseph, removed to Thompson, Conn., just before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Benjamin F. Brown, grandson of Joseph of Thompson, was eight years old when his father, Amos Brown, died, and was reared by his brother, Jason, who had settled in Bernardston. Benjamin married Mary, daughter of Laban White of Gill, and after the birth of their oldest child, the family removed to Thompson. While living in Thompson, Benjamin Brown was commissioned on November 7, 1853 as Captain of Rifle Company D, Connecticut Militia. A son, Henry, died in Philadelphia while in service in the Civil War. Benjamin was a carpenter by trade, and returned to this vicinity when building activities were started at Turners Falls.

BURROWS. Amos Burrows settled in Gill in 1814. He was the son of Joshua Burrows of Groton, Conn., who died in 1775 leaving a widow and three small children, the oldest being Amos born in 1773 and named for his grandfather Burrows. Their mother married for her second husband, David Davis, a native of Lebanon, Conn., who had settled in Guilford, Vt. After serving an apprenticeship in Connecticut to learn the trade of a blacksmith, Amos came to the home of his stepfather, who lived not far from the Leyden line. In the following year, Amos married Phebe Hunt of Leyden and established himself in Leyden as a blacksmith, removing to Gill twenty years later.

Joshua and Willsworth Burrows, the brothers of Amos, grew up in Guilford. Joshua married Olive Wilder, and secondly, Lydia (Jennings) Gilligan. The marriage intentions of Willsworth and Prudence Leland were entered in Leyden on October 23, 1796. According to family legend one of the brothers met death by drowning, but which one it may have been has not been learned.

The emigrant ancestor of these brothers was Robert Burrows who settled in Wethersfield, Conn., prior to 1641, when he married Mary, widow of Samuel Ireland. About 1650 he removed to New London where he established the first ferry across the Mystic River. His son John married Hannah Culver. John, Jr., married Lydia Hubbard, and they were the parents of Amos Burrows, grandfather of the three brothers, Amos, Joshua, and Willsworth.

Nelson Burrows, the youngest son of Amos the blacksmith, was the only son born in Gill. He succeeded to his father's property on the Bernardston-Northfield road, the original homestead having been destroyed by fire at midnight, March 20, 1849. He took a prominent part in town and county affairs, and became chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Jarvis F. Burrows was the popular landlord of the tavern in South Vernon, while the three oldest sons of Amos settled in Bernardston where they became influential citizens.

CANNING. The eldest of the five sons of Reverend Josiah W. Canning was Ebenezer Smith Canning, named for his maternal grandfather. His early death on August 9, 1834 in Detroit, Mich., at the age of 25, ended the career of the most potentially brilliant member of the family. A precocious student under the tutelage of his father, he became acquainted at an early age with the classics and the standard works of history and poetry of that day. He entered Williams College in the fall of 1826, and was graduated with honors in 1830. While in college he won the \$100 prize offered for the best poem submitted in a competition by the "Philadelphia Saturday Courier," later known as "The Saturday Evening Post," and contributions from his pen thereafter appeared in many contemporary periodicals. He taught school in Egremont, Mass., and in Canajoharie, N.Y., for two years after his graduation, and then having obtained the position of midshipman's tutor on the frigate "United States," he joined a squadron in the Mediterranean. At the earnest solicitation of his friend and classmate, J. M. Howard, he forsook his naval tutoring in the fall of 1833 to join the young colony at Detroit in Michigan territory. There he became associate editor of "The Detroit Courier" and also began to read law in the office of Howard & Sawyer. Before the expiration of his first year in Detroit, however, he fell victim to an attack of cholera. "In his death, American literature has lost a bright ornament," was the concluding comment of his obituary notice published in the "Courier" for August 13, 1834.

Edward W. B. Canning, the second son, was graduated from Williams College in the class of 1834. After a period of teaching at the Wheeling Institute in Wheeling, W. Va., he became the principal of Williams Academy in Stockbridge, Mass., a position he held for many years. Under his direction, the Academy became one of the leading Western Massachusetts preparatory schools. He was a frequent contributor both of prose and poetry to newspapers and magazines, and was recognized as a teacher and writer of marked ability.

Josiah Dean Canning received his education in the Gill Public Schools and in the private classes of his learned father. Although he lacked the benefits of college training, he was well versed in the classics, and early displayed a bent for a literary career. While still a boy in his teens, he constructed a printing press of his own invention, and procuring a font of type became a self-taught printer. As soon as he became proficient, he started publication of the bi-weekly "The Village Post," a miniature newspaper which he edited and printed for about two years. Then, at the age of seventeen, he went to Detroit where he became a journeyman printer on the staff of "The Detroit Courier" of which his brother, Ebenezer, was an associate editor. The death of his brother with-

in a few weeks, however, was a serious blow to his expectations, and removed any desire to remain in Detroit permanently. He returned, and for a year or two was foreman in a printing establishment in Wheeling, W. Va., where his brother, Edward, was engaged in teaching. In the fall of 1837 he went to the newly founded territory of Wisconsin to assume superintendence of governmental printing, but prolonged delays in the delivery of printing machinery and supplies forced him to return in the following year.

His first attempts at verse appeared in "The Village Post," and during the years of his travels he continued to express himself in poetic form. On his return to Gill from Wisconsin he devoted his time seriously to writing, and in the same year published his first volume, "Poems." Although his productions in general lack the polished literary and intellectual niceties of the more pretentious poems written by his older brothers, their simplicity, flowing rhythm and spontaneous diction impart a far more lasting impression. In 1852 he published a second volume of poems, "The Harp and Plow," which gained for him favorable comment as "The Peasant Bard," a title conferred on him by Louis Gaylord Clarke, editor of "The Knickerbocker Magazine," on the publication of his "Lament of the Cherokee," a poem that won a place in "Town's Fourth Reader." Although he continued to write whenever the spirit moved, and many poems were published in newspapers and magazines, no further volume was issued during his lifetime. A volume called "Connecticut River Reeds," made up of poems selected by Mr. Canning, was issued as a commemorative volume soon after his death in 1892.

Mr. Canning was a farmer by occupation during the major portion of his life, the Gill property of his father having come to him in the settlement of the Reverend Josiah's estate. He was postmaster at Gill Center for many years, town clerk and treasurer, and active in the promotion of many civic enterprises. In between these duties and the attention to the demands of his farm, he found time to compose his verse. Mr. Canning made no claim to the role of poet, but strove merely to recite befittingly the fast disappearing simplicities of rural life, the changing forms of nature, and the beneficent Divine Power above all. Many of his poems, to the few who have made their acquaintance, have a particular charm for those who live in this vicinity, or have experienced life in the country.

The writer of the following tribute needs no introduction:

The Village Post.

New Series.—Enlarged and otherwise much improved.

VOL. 2.] GILL, MS. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1833. [NO. 16

FOR THE VILLAGE POST. SCRAPS FROM A JOURNAL.

OVERBOARD!

That long, level line skirting the horizon and presenting scarce an elevation,—that yellow spreading shore with occasional trees is Africa. Its first revelation is remarkable, Sahara is there. The sky itself borrows a frightful aspect from the reflection of the great Desert beneath, a lurid, threatening tint, as if deep red were mixed with a deeper orange.

This morning opened upon us with a chapter of accidents. It was early seen that our consort had lost her spanker gaff

minutes to rise and sink, seemingly without discovering the buoy flags, and apparently endeavoring to extricate himself from a heavy pea-jacket, while the waves were constantly hiding him from view. He was at this time to windward of both boats, and the boat by some means made a start, and, pulling to leeward. The masts, shrouds and tops were crowded with anxious faces, some calling and looking to the boat which was itself now visible only as it rose on the short, chop sea. At a moment, unable to discover a trace of the drowning man. "Do you see him still?" cried the officer to the man aloft. "Aye, aye, sir, he was up a moment since, and the boat is now heading on for land." A

Village Post, who are wishing to save their QUARTER of a DOLLAR, can have an opportunity by settling their Subscription before the First of April next, as the terms of this paper after that date will be \$3.75. Office of The Village Post, Jan. 28th.

ALL PERSONS

INDEBTED to the Subscriber, whose Notes and Accounts have become void by contract, are notified that unless they pay soon, the demands will positively pass into the Collecting Mill.

I. CHENERY.

January 22, 1834. Sw 19

NO MISTAKE.

ALL PERSONS indebted to the Editor, by settling by the FIRST of MARCH next, will much oblige him; otherwise he must oblige them, to save himself from ruin.

JOEL LYONS.

Gill, January 9th, 1834. 18

THE Subscriber receives and executes all orders in the Book-Binding Line. 19 J. W. LANDER.

JOBPRINTING done with promptness and despatch at the Office of THE VILLAGE POST.

The Village Post

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Printed by Josiah D. Canning, at the Village Post Office.

Amesbury, June 4, 1892

Dear Friend:—

I heartily thank thee for the poems of Mr. Canning. He was a genuine New England poet, a warm lover of Nature, seeing clearly and describing truly in simple Saxon words.

There are verses in his book which lack only the Scottish dialect to be mistaken for those of Burns.

I am glad the book is published. It will, I am sure, be welcomed at the farm firesides of New England.

Thine truly,
JOHN G. WHITTIER.

The fourth son of Reverend Josiah Canning was baptized William Pitkin Canning. As William Pitt Canning he studied medicine and surgery, probably with Dr. John Frizzell in Wheeling, W. Va. He was commissioned an assistant surgeon in the Navy by the United States Senate on May 7, 1844 and assigned to the "Vandalia." Dr. Canning died on board that ship on April 7, 1845 while in passage from Port au Prince to Norfolk, Va., and was buried at sea.

Joseph C. Canning, the youngest son, at one time held the position of comptroller of the City of New York, and was for awhile purser on the steamer "Baltic" between New York and Liverpool. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was commissioned a paymaster in the Navy and served throughout the war. He was in several naval engagements, and was in both the bombardments on Fort Fisher. During the second bombardment, Mr. Canning volunteered to command a battery on his own vessel, and won the praise of the commanding officer for efficient service. After the close of the war he was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue in New York City, which office he held at the time of his death on October 3, 1887.

CASWELL. Perhaps the most all-round colorful character among the inhabitants of Gill was Solomon Caswell, one of the last surviving representatives of the old-time flatboat men who plied up and down the Connecticut River when the canal system was in operation. A near-giant in stature and strength, he was probably typical of those boatmen, who, because of the exhausting labor demanded of them, were drawn largely from the trappers and loggers of the backwoods. Although much of a "diamond in the rough," a genial good-nature, a homely wit, and an entire lack of personal conceit made him popular with all who came in contact with him.

His grandfather, Nathan Caswell, was born in Norwich, Conn., in 1740. He removed to Orford, N.H., and in 1770 started the settlement at Littleton, N.H., where he remained for thirty years. He served in the Revolutionary War, and was Littleton's town clerk and treasurer for some time. In 1803 he removed to Bromptonville on the St. Francis River in Lower Canada, where his son Daniel began freight-rafting and piloting on the river. Not long after their arrival, a man was condemned to death and publicly hanged in Canada at a spot not far from the New York line, and people came from near and far to witness the execution, as was customary then on such occasions. It was here that Daniel first met his future wife, Mehitable Houston, who at the time was teaching school in the northern part of New York State and was one of a party that came on horseback to attend the hanging. When the school term was ended, Daniel brought the schoolteacher into Canada as his wife, and his freight-raft was their home for the next few years. On it Solomon, their oldest child, was born; an infant so homely (by his own account) that his mother always borrowed a neighbor's child to take with her when she went "a-visiting."

Solomon Caswell was at home on and in the water from his earliest days, and as he grew up learned all the tricks of river rafting from his father, an expert pilot and poleman. During the winter months when the river was ice-bound, he trapped and hunted, or did lumbering. He claimed that he never went to school but once in his life, and on that day arrived just after the schoolmaster had closed the school and left. He said he found the schoolhouse so cold that he stayed only a minute, otherwise he might have remained an hour and got a real liberal education.

River navigation about 1835 was in its heyday on the Connecticut, and Solomon's father-in-law, Seth Britt, with some of his sons were at work on boats and rafts engaged in the river traffic. The Britts were living in Surry, N.H., in 1837, and through them Solomon Caswell made his first acquaintance with the Connecticut River as a flatboat man for Moore & Griswold at Bellows Falls, Vt. The boat was cabinless, and the crew camped ashore wherever night overtook them. His wages were \$14 per month. When the season was over, he went back to Canada, but the Britts persuaded him to come back the next year, and from then on he lived and operated on the Connecticut as long as the river traffic lasted. For several years he lived in Surry, where he bought a home, and worked for Wentworth & Bingham, under Captain Samuel Granger, on a run between Bellows Falls, Vt. and Hartford, Conn., carrying down soapstone sawed into slabs, and bringing back West India goods for the country storekeepers.

One night at Hinsdale, N.H., he heard that Berry & Crowning-

shield wanted a pilot to run a division of rafts to Hartford. He got the job at \$1.50 per day, and although Captain Granger told him he was foolhardy to attempt the undertaking, Solomon, banking on his experience on the St. Francis River, went ahead, and was back again in Hinsdale by stage in five and one-half days from the start, having delivered the division successfully. His reputation as a pilot was established, and from then on his services were in constant demand.

When Samuel Hale was engaged by Elihu P. Thayer, the agent of the Canal Company, to superintend the building of the dam between Great Island and the Gill shore, Lieutenant Hale employed Caswell to act as his foreman, and Solomon brought his family to Gill. During the building of this dam, Solomon Caswell experienced probably the most miraculous escape from drowning that ever took place in this area.

The construction of a cofferdam was found to be impossible under the conditions that existed, so the new dam was being built by submerging what were termed "cheeks." These cheeks were 4 feet wide, and the water, foaming white, rushed through with a depth of approximately 20 feet. One day Caswell noticed that a timber had become lodged against one of the cheeks, and he told a man named Barrett to loosen it. Caswell intended to lift the timber out when it was dislodged, but the timber slewed unexpectedly and pitched him into the boiling torrent to be sucked down through. However, his great muscular strength and physical powers of endurance held out until he was able to rise in clear water half way to Fall River, none the worse after the harrowing test to which he had been subjected.

Before the dam at Turner's Falls was completed, the Canal Company started the building of a new dam below Millers River, and, on Lieutenant Hale's recommendation, Solomon Caswell was given charge of its construction. The work was brought to a successful completion with Asahel Sawyer as his assistant and Sheriff Wells of Greenfield as his commissary. Caswell then became lock-tender there, and built the tavern for boatmen on the Gill side of the river. When the tavern burned, he did not rebuild it, as the life of a tavern-keeper was not strenuous enough to satisfy a man of his force and energy. He afterward bought a farm in Erving adjoining the Northfield town line on the Northfield Farms Main Road, and in its brick house spent the last years of his life having completed a cycle of nearly ninety years.

The late Mrs. Catherine (Britt) Putnam of Orange, who lived to be a centenarian, was a granddaughter of Daniel and Mehitabel (Houston) Caswell.

CHENERY. Isaac Chenery, the Gill merchant, was descended from the Chenerys of Medfield, Mass., of which place his father, Dr. Isaac Chenery, was a native. When his medical training was completed, the doctor located in Holden, Mass., married Susannah, daughter of Josiah Pierce of Worcester, and raised a family of nine children. Thaddeus, the oldest son, followed in his father's footsteps and became a physician. Dr. Isaac Chenery served as a surgeon in the Revolutionary War, and died in Holden at the age of eighty, after some fifty years of medical practice.

Isaac, the doctor's son and namesake, came to Montague where his older brother, Nathan, had married and located, and there entered the employ of the Roots who had interests in merchandising both in Montague and at Cheapside. In 1823 Mr. Chenery, with the backing of Sylvester Allen, founder of the well-known Greenfield firm, S. Allen & Sons, who at the time was an associate of the Roots at Cheapside, acquired the property and business at Gill Center formerly belonging to Gideon L. Sprague. Here Mr. Chenery conducted a successful general store until his untimely death in 1842.

The widow Chenery with her children returned to Montague, and Isaac, the merchant's only son, when eighteen years old became a clerk for Root & Davis. About five years later he started in business for himself and for some twenty-five years engaged in general merchandising in Montague. He was postmaster for seventeen years, held numerous town offices, and after acting as a deputy sheriff for many years, in 1893 succeeded George A. Kimball as sheriff. At the time of his death he was also President of the Crocker Institution for Savings, and a Director of the Crocker National Bank. Mr. Chenery's wife was Lucretia, a daughter of Moses Bardwell, who, during the canal days, kept the boatmen's tavern in Montague City, later the summer home of Mr. B. N. Farren.

Miss Alona Chenery, the sheriff's oldest sister, was the first librarian of the Montague Public Library, to which she rendered devoted service for many years.

Sheriff Chenery always retained a keen interest in his native town, and was marshal of the day when Gill celebrated its centennial.

DAY. Robert Day, the founder of this family, came to New England in 1634 on the "Elizabeth," a fellow passenger with John Severns, the ancestor of the Severance family. He settled at Hartford, Conn., and his descendants followed the northward trend of settlements in the Connecticut Valley. James, who located in Gill, was a native of West Springfield, and of the sixth generation. Five of his brothers, as well as his father, gave Revolutionary War service, and the Holyoke D.A.R. Chapter is named in honor of his mother, Eunice Day. James Day, his grandson

and namesake, was the father of James F. Day, Captain of a company in the 37th Illinois Regiment, who served throughout the Civil War, and of Captain Edwin E. Day, for whom the Greenfield G.A.R. Post was named.

Captain Edwin Ely Day was born in Gill on September 3, 1825 and was Captain of the Greenfield Guards at the outbreak of the Civil War. When Company G of the 10th Massachusetts Regiment was formed, Captain Day became its captain, and the company left Greenfield under his command. The company was part of the forces engaged in the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, on May 31, 1862, and there Captain Day fell mortally wounded. The following letter from Sergeant Alva C. Phillips to his uncle, Simon Phillips, is of interest in this connection:

HdQuarters First Division
4th Army Corps
June 11th 1862.

Dear Uncle

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well, hoping this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I do not know as this will ever reach you. I will hope for the best. I have written two or three letters, I do not know as they ever reached you—the last one I sent it by one of my Co. that had been discharged. His name was Streeter, his father lives somewhere in Bernardston—in the letter I sent my “warrant.” But enough of this.

I suppose you have heard of the battle of “Fair Oak Station” in which the 10th took no mean part. Four times was our Reg. broken, four times did it form and repel the enemy. It was at the third time that it broke that Capt. Day received his death wound—he was rallying his men the last time when he fell—the first Sergt. of his Co. and one other man lifted him up and while trying to carry him off the field he was shot twice one of the balls striking one of the men that was carrying him—both fell but Capt. Day never rose again—he was shot dead. A braver man never lived than he. Of all the officers of the Reg. none was better liked than he. Both the Atherton boys were wounded—not mortally, I believe. I think they have gone home, but am not shure. We had killed in our Reg. 29, wounded 84, missing 14, total 127. You can judge what kind of a fight it was when a Reg. goes into it with only 500 men and comes out with only 373. Have you received any allotment money from me—it is time that you had. I have just been paid off—Rec. \$10. The balance of my pay I presume you have Rec. before this. I must draw my letter to a close.

Give my love to all the folks. By the kindness of a friend—one of Gen. Couch's aids, I have been appointed Ordnance Sergt. of this Division—hereafter you may direct your letters to

A. C. Phillips
Hdquarters 1st Division
4th Army Corps
in Front of Richmond.

HASTINGS. Benjamin Hastings, one of the early settlers in Northampton, was the son of Thomas Hastings who came to Watertown in 1634 from Ipswich, England. Benjamin, Jr., settled in Greenfield where he held important trusts in church and militia, and was the father of Benjamin, a captain in the French and Indian campaigns, a lieutenant of the 3rd Company, 5th Hampshire County Regiment in the Revolutionary War in which he saw active service, and one of Greenfield's leading citizens. Oliver Hastings, his son, settled in Gill in 1817, having bought the farm at the West Gill crossroads owned by John Merrill, husband of Oliver's cousin Lydia. Oliver's property came into the possession of his son, Onesimus, who served in the War of 1812, became one of the substantial farmers of the town and the ancestor of many descendants still living in Gill. Oliver, Jr., his brother States, and his sister Mary, with her husband, Samuel Rice, all removed to the vicinity of Champion, Jefferson County, N.Y., where lived their mother's sister who had married Thomas Hastings, their father's cousin. Thomas and Huldah (Cary) Hastings raised a large family, most of whom emigrated to Ohio where many descendants live at the present time. George Samuel Hastings, son of Oliver, Jr., became a Methodist minister, and for over twenty years held pastorates under the Black River and the Northern New York Conferences. States Hastings married a daughter of one of the Hessian soldiers of the British who remained in America, and their descendants have scattered widely. Sidney Smith Hastings, Oliver's youngest son, was apprenticed to a wagonmaker who removed to Delaware County, N.Y., where Sidney married and afterward settled in Ohio. His son, Silas, died in service in the Civil War on board the hospital ship "Woodford" on the Mississippi. There are also many in Gill who descend from Oliver's brother, Selah, through his grandson, Benjamin, who settled in Gill in 1867.

HENRY. Hugh Henry was one of the first settlers of Colrain, and the first town meeting was held at his house on February 10, 1742. His son, Benjamin, settled in Halifax, Vt., was one of "Rogers's Rangers," and a

member of the Vermont Constitutional Convention, 1791-93. Edward Fish Henry, grandson of Benjamin, came to Gill in 1830 as a schoolmaster for the winter term in the district later known as Riverside. He married a daughter of Seth Combs and leased the farm at the foot of Mount Pisgah Road, later the property of Roswell Field. His father, David Henry, who had removed from Halifax to Heath, purchased this farm in 1832, and brought with him a large contingent of his fourteen children. Edward Fish Henry continued to teach school at times during the following ten years, and his sisters, Esther and Prudence, are also listed as teachers for the summer school sessions. Another sister, Catherine, who married Edward Tucker, lived to be a centenarian. Edward Stevens Henry, son of Edward Fish Henry, was born in Gill in 1836. He settled in Rockville, Conn., as a merchant and became a prominent and influential citizen, serving as treasurer of the Tolland County Fire Insurance Company, and as a director of the First National Bank in Rockville and the First National Bank in Willimantic.

PHILLIPS. Israel Phillips was the grandson of Joseph and Ruth (Towne) Phillips, Joseph being the son of Theophilus and Mary (Bennett) Phillips, and grandson of the Reverend George Phillips who came to New England in the "Arbella" with Governor Winthrop, and was the first minister settled in Watertown. Captain Roger Clap mentioned the Reverend Mr. Phillips in his diary as one of the four famous ministers who came in the Winthrop fleet, and further stated he had heard Mr. Phillips "preach many a good sermon, their Meeting Place being under a tree," as no meetinghouse had then been built.

About 1790 Israel Phillips came to Greenfield to work for his uncle, Captain Joseph Phillips, and in 1794 married Mercy Bascom, sister of Martha, wife of his cousin, Joseph Phillips, Jr. He settled upon land belonging to his father-in-law, Deacon Moses Bascom, and in time obtained title to 70 acres described in the deed as "the southwest corner of Lot No. 53 in the 2nd Division on both sides of Fall River." Israel accordingly became a property owner not only in Greenfield, but also in Gill, and although his homestead was on the Greenfield side of the river and the family has been considered a Greenfield family, it has nevertheless been also closely identified with Gill through its ownership of property, its intermarriage with Gill families, and the residence in Gill of several of the later generations. Israel and Mercy Phillips raised a family of ten children, nine sons and one daughter, an eleventh child, Huldah, having been drowned in Fall River when a little over three years old.

Alvah Phillips, the oldest son, was a clothier and wool carder by trade. He settled in Wyoming, Pa., and a granddaughter became a tal-

ented singer, at one time associated with "The Hutchinson Family," nationally known concert musicians of their day.

Israel Bascom Phillips, the second son, was for many years a commercial salesman covering New England territory, an occupation continued until well beyond his eightieth birthday. John Towne Phillips, like his oldest brother, was a clothier and wool carder. He located in Laurens, Otsego County, N.Y.

Rufus Severance Phillips remained in Greenfield and came into possession of the homestead. In addition to running his farm, he did much work as a surveyor of land. Noble Philander Phillips, a shoemaker by trade, also remained in this area, a resident at times of Bernardston, Greenfield, and Gill.

Ezekiel Lysander Phillips was a machinist by trade and located in Brattleboro, Vt., but died shortly before his thirty-third birthday. A posthumous son, Alva Clesson Phillips, served in the Union Army and died of wounds received in the battle of Gettysburg. His letter concerning the death of Captain Edwin E. Day has been quoted.

Alonzo Daniel Phillips was the popular landlord of hotels in Springfield, Athol, and Fitchburg in Mass., in Brattleboro, Vt., and in Hartford, Conn. A son, Henry M. Phillips, became Mayor of Springfield and Treasurer of the Commonwealth.

Moses Bascom Phillips was a cloth dryer and dresser. He settled in Pennsylvania near his brother, Alvah. Simon Cady Phillips, the youngest son, was a resident of Gill during the greater part of his life, and was prominently identified with town interests, serving as town clerk, selectman, and chairman of the school committee.

STACY. The Stacy family is another family whose forebears for several generations lived in Salem. William of the fourth generation followed the sea, and has been mentioned as mate to his father-in-law, Captain Lewis Hunt, when the brigantine "Adventure" sailed from Barbadoes for New England on September 6, 1713. William died two years later leaving a posthumous son also named William. The widow married Paul Langdon of Boston, who removed to Hopkinton, Mass., and then to Wilbraham, Mass., settling in the part that afterward was set off as the Town of Holland. William Stacy followed his stepfather to Wilbraham, where a large family was reared, the youngest son being Gilbert who married into the Northfield Field family and settled in Gill soon after the incorporation of the town. He at once became actively identified with town affairs, and held many offices of responsibility until his death at the age of forty-two. A brother, Mahlon, whose full name was probably Mahlon Molton Stacy, as he was listed in records under both names, served in

the Revolutionary War, lived for many years in Barre, Vt., was a Revolutionary pensioner, and died in Glastonbury, Conn., at the home of his daughter, Nancy, wife of George Pease. Another brother, Warham Stacy, settled in Ohio, where a son, Nelson, was high sheriff.

WARNER. Anson E. Warner was born in Gill in 1830 while his parents were living on what was then known as the William Chapin farm, once the property of John Ewers, and more recently known as Timothy M. Stoughton's "Rock Meeting" pasturage. His father, Anson Warner, was the son of Joel and Thankful (Chapin) Warner, and the grandson of Ichabod Warner, a native of Glastonbury, Conn., who settled in Bernardston and there married Hannah, daughter of David and Martha (Shattueck) Ryther. Anson Warner removed from Gill to Greenfield where he purchased land on the north side of Silver Street, and was one of the well-known farmers in that part of Greenfield when he passed away in the prime of life. Anson K. Warner, who had just reached his majority, carried on the farm with laudable success for several years, and then purchased a larger tract of land in the meadow section on the Leyden Road, and became one of Greenfield's prominent and influential citizens. He was an enthusiastical promoter of the annual Agricultural Fair, and served as President of the Association for four years. He was Vice-President of the Crocker National Bank in Turners Falls, a director of the Conway National Bank, and Chairman of the Greenfield Board of Selectmen at the time of his death on April 15, 1886 from injuries received the previous week in the railroad accident at Bardwell's Ferry.

Chapter 15

THE VILLAGE OF GILL

Gill Center was considerably more of a village at one time than present appearances indicate. Stores, shops, taverns, and dwellings lined the opposite sides of the highways enclosing the common, forming a bustling country hamlet to which the trim village church lent a benign air of moderation and dignity.

Eleazer Wrisley was the first to settle in the immediate neighborhood of the spot later known as the "Center." Before the days of the Revolutionary War, his homestead facing the southeast stood beside Woodward's Brook on the land known in recent years as the Henry Purple place. Ithamar Allen soon followed Mr. Wrisley, and built a dwelling in the rear of the present church property and erected a gristmill on the brook nearby. A schoolhouse, built before the year 1775, stood on the knoll at the junction of the Center and Northfield roads. David Squires, who arrived about 1788 to start the first smithy and potash works, located where the Town Hall now stands.

On the outskirts, Asahel Wrisley, brother of Eleazer, had built the farmhouse later owned by Jeremiah Deane, then by the Thorntons, John and Abel, and recently destroyed by fire. David Wrisley, father of the brothers, had settled on the Northfield Road at the top of the hill above Mill Lane. Jacob Bates had built his homestead where Frank Zak now lives, and Ichabod Potter had located a short distance below the Center on the road south to the Connecticut River.

The foregoing structures, less than a dozen all together, were probably the only buildings in the vicinity of the present Center when the town was incorporated in 1793.

Ithamar Allen owned all the land directly west of Eleazer Wrisley's property, and when developments in town affairs made it probable that the section of Greenfield east of Fall River would be set off as a new township, Mr. Wrisley, who evidently expected the main village to be located at this point, purchased a 20-acre strip along Mr. Allen's eastern bounds. Mr. Wrisley, as a consequence, owned all the land in and immediately surrounding the Center when Gill was incorporated. As soon as it had been definitely decided that the meetinghouse should be located somewhere between the schoolhouse and Mr. Squires's buildings, the site of the future town center was made certain, and a fringe of buildings

before long began to appear beside the highways.

The common was somewhat larger at first than it now is, successive road alterations having encroached upon its triangular area. The Center Road from West Gill is the only road still following its original location, while the present road to "the Falls" was entirely absent. The first road to Bernardston entered the common along the western edge of the land now owned by Mr. Walter Marble.

Job Goodale, a young lawyer from Marlboro, came to Gill soon after the town was incorporated, married Mr. Obed Foote's daughter and settled down to the practice of his profession, as well as to deal largely in mortgages and real estate. He purchased some land east of the church property and built a house at the corner of the common and the old road to Bernardston, in the foreground of the lot now occupied by Mr. Marble.

When the Reverend John Jackson became the first settled pastor of the new church in 1798, he bought the remaining land owned by Ithamar Allen west of Mr. Squires's property, and Mr. Allen left Gill to settle in Northfield, Vt. Mr. Jackson built a house at the top of the hill on the road to West Gill, in what is now the pasture land owned by Mr. Marble. In later years the main portion of the property was commonly known as "the Henry Ewers's farm." Mr. Squires had, in the meantime, moved into a house he had erected south of his forge, very near the site of the present store building. Mr. Squires's new house contained a room equipped with a tavern-bar where wayfarers could fortify themselves after the fatigue of journeys or disappointments; so Mr. Squires was presumably the first tavern-keeper at the Center.

The Reverend Jabez Munsell, the second minister, purchased the house Mr. Goodale had built, and Mr. Goodale removed to another that had been standing on the rear portion of his land when he made the purchase. It was perhaps the house in which Ithamar Allen had once lived.

James Gould, another scribe and lawyer by profession, located in Gill about the year 1800. He leased the premises that had been occupied by David Squires, who returned to Colebrook, Conn., his former home. Mr. Gould in 1801 opened the first store in Gill for the sale of general merchandise. Two years later Mr. Gould bought Mr. Squires's property and took Elijah Gould into partnership. At this time, or within a few years, a store-building was erected. The new building stood on the spot thereafter used for store purposes for more than one-hundred years, until the County Commissioners in 1923 put through the new road to Turners Falls, and Mr. D. O. Paul moved and remodeled the building in its present location.

The Reverend Josiah Cannon, on his settlement as pastor of the

Gill church in 1806, purchased the dwelling in which his predecessor had lived, though according to his letters, it was not at all the kind of house he desired. It was his home, however, for more than ten years.

Joel Lyons, who had just completed his medical training under Dr. Samuel Ross of Colrain, began the practice of his profession in Gill in the year following Mr. Cannon's arrival. These two young men, who started their careers here at almost the same time, administered to the needs of the people according to their respective callings for nearly fifty years.

In 1805 Eleazer Wrisley sold the Gill property still in his possession to John Stratton, a wheelwright, concerning whom little has been learned. He did not belong to the local Stratton family, and he remained in Gill for only two or three years. He then removed to New York State without disposing of his property, which he apparently left for the use of Peter Mason. Mr. Mason was one of the French soldiers who, as Pierre Masson, had come to America with General LaFayette and who, like many of them, remained permanently. He settled in Colchester, Conn., removed to Shelburne, and later came to Gill after his son-in-law, Dr. Joel Lyons, had begun practice here. It is possible that John Stratton also was his son-in-law, as Mr. Stratton after Peter Mason's death in 1813, immediately returned to Gill and disposed of all his property. He also confirmed the deed Mr. Mason had given for the sale of the land that made up the first section laid out as the Center Cemetery.

Benjamin Jacobs, who had come to Gill from Royalston, Mass., not long before, was the purchaser of the greater part of Mr. Stratton's real estate, and the land about the common soon became the scene of new activities.

Mr. Jacobs erected a tavern where the first schoolhouse had stood. Fire had destroyed the school building during the night of February 13, 1807, and a new schoolhouse of brick stood on the opposite side of the common at the western end of the knoll above Beaver Brook.

When the tavern was completed, Mr. Jacobs sold the Eleazer Wrisley homestead, in which he had been living, to Josiah Dewey. Mr. Jacobs also built a store-building on the common opposite the tavern, and in 1815 entered the field as a competitor to the Gould establishment. Almost immediately, however, he sold the business and the property to Seth Starr and Gideon L. Sprague. Mr. Jacobs nevertheless did not retire from merchandising, as he was afterward advertising goods for sale, probably in his tavern. About the same time, Mr. Jacobs bought back the Eleazer Wrisley homestead from Josiah Dewey who had removed to Winchester, N.H. Mr. Jacobs advertised the property for sale as comprising 50 acres, and in 1816 sold the farm to Holmes Mayhew.

About this time Dr. William Richards came to Gill and was a practicing physician here until his death in 1825. He lived on the South Road just beyond the land now owned by Mr. Vernon A. Gillett.

Mr. Jacobs in 1814 had sold the land on Beaver Brook in the rear of the brick schoolhouse to Samuel Stratton, a tanner by trade, who at the time had a tannery in Guilford, Vt. Mr. Stratton erected a tannery here, and leased it to Flavel Greenleaf and English Newcomb. Four years later Mr. Stratton removed to Gill, and from then on operated the tannery himself. He purchased land of Seth Starr adjacent to the store property on the west, and erected a two-story dwelling for his family beside the brick schoolhouse, which also became his property when the Center school district was divided into the 1st South and 2nd North districts. Private schools were kept in the brick building for many years by a succession of teachers. When its use for school purposes ended, it was converted into a tenement. The two buildings remained on the common long after they had become unfit for rent through lack of proper repair, dilapidated relicts of the Center's days of prosperity. The Stratton heirs finally sold the bricks that composed the schoolhouse to Robert Andrews, and the site was cleaned up. Fire on April 4, 1899 performed the last rites for the two-story building.

Mr. Sprague had several partners, one after another, in his store business: Sylvanus Root after Seth Starr, then Asa Smith. In 1818 Mr. Sprague assumed full control himself. He also at that time bought the tavern property from Otis Gunn of Montague, who had operated the tavern for about a year after his purchase of it from Mr. Jacobs who had removed to Winchester to join Mr. Dewey. Mr. Jacobs had also sold his remaining property south of the common to Benjamin Brainard, a legal practitioner. Lawyer Goodale had returned to Marlboro, so there evidently was an opening at the Center for a successor. When the Northern District of Hampshire County was set off as Franklin County, all county business was transacted by the Court of Sessions, and the first meeting of this court for the new county was held on March 3, 1812 in Greenfield, with Job Goodale, Esquire, of Gill as Chief Justice. Judge Goodale, after a brief stay in Marlboro, settled permanently in Bernardston, where he became a leading citizen and the town's benefactor.

Lawyer Brainard added another dwelling to the south side of the common, locating it at the eastern end of his property, near the slope in the road as it curved down to Woodward's Brook. The dwelling was built to serve also the purpose of a tavern and contained a hall on the second floor.

The combination of storekeeper and tavern-keeper appears to have been more than Mr. Sprague could handle, as he soon became involved

in financial difficulties, and removed from Gill to join the other settlers from the town in Bristolville, Ohio. Mr. Sprague sold the tavern to John Phelps of Westfield, in whose family it remained for many years. Mr. Sprague's creditors took over the store property, and Alfred Alvord, who had been running a general store in Erving, was placed in charge.

In 1823 Isaac Chenery of Montague acquired a one half interest in the property, and assumed the management of the store. The other half interest was held by Sylvester Allen, founder of the well-known Greenfield firm, S. Allen & Sons. Mr. Chenery immediately purchased additional land from Benjamin Brainard and enlarged and improved the store-building considerably. Mr. Chenery possessed the natural knack for merchandising necessary to the successful storekeeper, and his business prospered. Within six years, having acquired Mr. Allen's share of the business, he became full owner himself. In the meantime, he had bought the lot between the store and Mr. Stratton's house, and on it had erected a dwelling for his family. Later a small building equipped as a barroom was added in the rear, and Mr. Chenery also became a tavern-keeper. The Slate Memorial Library now occupies part of the former Chenery property.

When the management of the store was taken out of Alfred Alvord's hands in 1823, he bought the real estate owned by Reverend Josiah W. Canning, who purchased land directly west of the meetinghouse, and had erected the dwelling that thereafter served the family for several generations. Mr. Alvord also bought land in the rear of his newly acquired property extending across the brook, where in company with John McHard, a distillery was operated. Mr. Alvord did not relinquish his role of storekeeper, however, and opened a third general merchandise store.

Holmes Mayhew was a clothier by trade, and after occupying the Eleazer Wrisley property for three years, sold it in 1819 to Gershom West, whose sons in 1825 sold it to Walter Brown, a blacksmith. During his occupancy, the old homestead was destroyed by fire.

Benjamin Brainard was the first postmaster in Gill. After his appointment, he built a small office, 14 by 20 feet, to serve him both as a post office and as a law office for the transaction of his own business. This little building stood not far from Mr. Chenery's store, the right of way into the Center Cemetery running between the two buildings. Mr. Brainard, preparing to move to Ohio, sold all of his holdings south of the common in 1835 to Willard Lovering, who came to Gill from Townshend Vt. Reverend Josiah W. Canning was appointed successor to Mr. Brainard as postmaster. He bought the office building from John W. Bissell, who had possessed it as acting-postmaster during the interim, and moved it to a location just west of his residence. Mr. Canning used

it for a post office and a sanctum sanctorum for himself during the remainder of his active years. Miss Carrie Canning also used it as a post office during her term of appointment. It also served as the first quarters for the Town Library, and at some time was used for a blacksmith's shop. In 1907 John J. Wrisley who had married Miss Canning moved the building across the road to their property, the former Dr. Evans's residence, and it was torn down by William E. Schacht when the place passed to his ownership.

About the year 1823, David Blackmer and Abner Dalrymple, shoemakers from Northboro, Mass., bought the cobbler's shop, once owned by Dorastus Holton, on the road opposite and slightly below James Gould's store. After Mr. Gould's death in 1825, David Blackmer leased the store from the heirs, and conducted business there for a number of years before removing to Erving where he continued to sell general merchandise. In 1837 Ichabod Battle purchased all the former Gould property on the west side of the common between the Center Road and Beaver Brook, including the store building and the old Squires house in which the storekeepers lived. Mr. Battle was a wheelwright by trade, and in addition to operating the store, had a woodworking shop on his land where the Town Hall now stands.

Deacon Lovering kept the Brainard tavern for some five years. The temperance movement was just then beginning to gain headway, so the deacon, seeking more befitting employment, bought the John McHard farm from the widow Martha McHard, and sold the tavern to Roswell Purple. When an increasing family made larger quarters necessary, Mr. Purple built the more commodious house, considerably improved by Lyman Chapin in 1887, and now owned and occupied by Frank Zak. The tavern was rented for various purposes. At times, private schools were kept in its hall, which also was used more or less for town assemblages before the Town Hall was built. After the erection of the Town Hall, the old tavern was sold at auction to Timothy M. Stoughton, who had it torn down, and the serviceable lumber was used in some of his Riverside building enterprises.

On the death of Isaac Chenery in 1842, Roswell Purple bought the late storekeeper's real estate when it was offered for sale in the settlement of Mr. Chenery's affairs, and the store and house were rented to Eliphalet S. Darling, a storekeeper in Sunderland. Mr. Darling remained here ten years, and during that time served as town clerk and treasurer. Roswell Purple's son, Hetsell Purple, who occupied the Chenery house after the departure of Mr. Darling, about the year 1857 moved the main part of the building across Woodward's Brook to the site of the old Eleazer Wrisley homestead, owned also by Roswell Purple. Hetsell Purple added

an ell to the relocated Chenery house, built a barn, and lived on the premises until it passed to his brother, Henry Purple, in the settlement of their father's estate. The house was destroyed by fire on September 2, 1904.

The store kept once by James Gould remained in the hands of Ichabod Battle for some ten years, and then he sold the land and building to John G. Creagh, who had married Mrs. Samuel P. Stratton's sister, Lucretia Pratt. Mr. Creagh also bought the adjacent lot upon which a dwelling house between the store and Beaver Brook had been erected not long before. Mr. Creagh, however, became involved in some legal entanglement, and the property reverted to Mr. Battle. Two years later, Mr. Battle removed to Northfield after selling all his holdings on the west side of the common to George E. Winslow, who ran the store for less than a year and sold out to Joseph C. Canning. The lot upon which the old David Squires's house was still standing was purchased from Mr. Canning as a site for a "Parsonage," and the old house was removed. In 1855 James W. Bates bought all Mr. Canning's remaining real estate except the store property. Mr. Bates thus owned all the tract of land that had belonged to James Gould, except the lots on which stood the store, the parsonage, and the dwelling sold John G. Creagh, owned and occupied at the time by Dr. Elijah P. Burton. Several years later Joseph C. Canning sold the store to his brother, Josiah D. Canning, who held the property until 1867 when it was purchased by Otis F. Hale through the agency of Ezra O. Purple. Mr. Hale also acquired the adjacent dwelling for his family from Dr. Burton who had left Gill to settle in the West. During the interim, Isaac D. Loring and James W. Bates had preceded Mr. Hale as storekeeper.

In 1874 Mr. Hale had the old store building moved back to make room for the large and commodious addition that now serves as the main part of Mr. D. O. Paul's store.

Of all the early buildings that clustered about the common, there remain today only the church, the Canning homestead, the dwelling owned by Mr. Paul, and the rear part of his present store. All the other buildings have gone down beneath the ravages of fire and time.

"On this little Common in Gill Center, I can well remember the time when there were three stores, three taverns, three lawyers, a select school for girls, and also one for boys."

Timothy M. Stoughton
(Gill Centennial, 1893)



Gill Center in the early 1900's.



The Canning homestead, Gill Center, early 1900's.



Herbert B. Hastings, the last Gill blacksmith, at his shop, early 1900's.



The Parsonage.



The Clapp farm, early 1900's.



The Zak farm in the 1930's. Inset Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Zak.



"A Hearty Welcome to Our Old Home Week" in 1911.



Gill Center store, 1911.



Gill Center, 1922.

Chapter 16

GILL CITIZENS IN THE MINISTRY AND MEDICINE

MINISTERS

Ezekiel Lysander Bascom was born on August 20, 1777 in the homestead built by his father, Deacon Moses Bascom, near Fall River in West Gill in the year 1763. He attended Dartmouth College, and upon graduation in 1798 began study for the ministry under the Reverend Joel Foster of New Salem, whose daughter, Priscilla, became his first wife. In 1800 he was settled as Unitarian minister in Gerry, now the Town of Phillipston, Mass. Several other pastorates were filled, among them one in Charleston, S.C., and one in Savannah, Ga. Returning from the South to Massachusetts, he was installed at Ashby on January 3, 1821, a pastorate he held for many years.

Reverend Jubilee Wellman was born in Gill on February 20, 1793. He was nine years old when his father died at Charlestown, N.H., and he went to live with Moses Warren of Acworth, N.H., and a few years afterward was taken into the home of Nathaniel Grout, also of Acworth. He is reputed to have been a wild and reckless youth, whose conversion, made at a dramatic revival meeting, inspired him to devote his life to the ministry. He was graduated from Bangor Seminary in 1823, and was ordained in 1824 at Frankfort, Me., where he held his first pastorate. He was called to Warner, N.H. in 1827, and his successful pastorate there covered a period of ten years. In 1838 he became pastor of the church in Westminster, Vt. He also preached at Plymouth and Cavendish, Vt. In 1850 he assumed the pastorate of the church in Lowell, Vt., where he officiated until his death in 1855. Concerning him, the "Congregational Quarterly" for January 1869 noted "He was dignified and gentlemanly in appearance, but readily adapted himself to his parishioners, however humble. His people both loved and revered him."

Reverend Calvin Holton, born in Gill on March 10, 1797, was ordained as a Baptist minister at Beverly, Mass., in December 1825. He sailed on the ship "Vine" in January 1826 with the agent of the "Colonization Society for Liberia, Africa" and a group of colonists. His missionary labors were soon cut short, however, as he fell a victim to climatic fever within six months, and died at Monrovia on July 23, 1826.

Reverend William Riddel, a native of Colrain, was graduated from

Dartmouth College in 1793 and studied divinity with both Reverend Dr. Asa Burton of Thetford, Vt., and Reverend Dr. Nathaniel Emmons of Franklin, Vt. He was ordained as a Congregational minister at Bristol, Me., in June 1796, and at the same time installed as the colleague pastor of the Reverend Alexander McLean, serving in that capacity at Bristol for eight years. After several years of missionary work in New York, he came to Gill in 1810, purchased a farm here, and did tutoring for college preparation, possibly as Mr. Canning's assistant. Five years later he accepted a call to Whitingham, Vt. He died in South Deerfield on October 24, 1849, and lies interred in the Center Cemetery beside his wife who died while residing here.

Reverend Samuel Hopkins Riddell, son of Reverend William Riddell, was named for his maternal grandfather, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Hopkins of Hadley. A native of Bristol, Me., his boyhood years were spent here in Gill. A graduate of Yale College in 1823 and of Andover Theological Seminary in 1826, he was installed at Glastonbury, Conn., on June 27, 1827, the Reverend Samuel Greene of Boston delivering the sermon of induction. After a pastorate of ten years at Glastonbury, he became editor of the "Congregationalist," and two years later, Secretary of the American Educational Society. He filled a pastorate at Tamworth, N.H., for twelve years, then accepted a western call, and died in Des Moines, Ia., on June 1, 1876.

Reverend William Mason Richards, son of Dr. William Richards, was another youth who grew up in Gill. He was graduated from Williams College in 1832, attended Auburn Theological Seminary, and was ordained at South Deerfield on November 25, 1835, remaining there until 1843, when he removed to New York State and preached at Norwich, Oxford, Hamilton, and Morrisville. In 1852 he accepted a call to Waukegan, Ill., and afterward to Princeton, Wis. He died on August 29, 1882 in Berlin, Wis.

Reverend Franklin P. Chapin, born in Gill on August 14, 1827, was graduated from Amherst College in 1852, from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1857, and was ordained as a Congregational minister at Camden, Me., on November 11, 1857. Following a pastorate of ten years at Camden, a call to the Congregational Church in Amherst was accepted. He resigned four years later to become Superintendent of Schools in Amherst and filled the position for several years. Returning to the ministry, pastorates were held at North Weymouth, Easton, and East Milton in Mass. He died at Campello, Mass., on March 7, 1909.

Reverend Frederick A. Tenney was born in Gill on September 30, 1825 and was graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1853. He was ordained a Unitarian minister at Louisville, Ky., on May 14, 1854 and

afterward filled a pastorate in Milwaukee, Wis. Ill health, however, forced his retirement, and he died in Gill on February 1, 1859.

Reverend Harriet Isabella Barton, born November 24, 1859, also became a Unitarian minister. She was graduated from Meadville Unitarian Theological School in 1895, and jointly with her husband, Reverend Richard W. Boynton, filled a long pastorate in Buffalo, N.Y., where she died on November 6, 1938.

PHYSICIANS

The first resident doctor in the Gill section of Greenfield of which there is record was Dr. Amos Preston, who in 1787 was living on land adjacent to the Munn property. (Bk. 2, p. 313.) His name appears as witness to a number of deeds drawn in the years 1785-1790 (Bk. 2-679; 3-347; 16-407.) and also in the 1790 census of Greenfield. Dr. Preston served as an army doctor in the War of 1812, and while in service called upon Samuel Stoughton, Jr., at his home in Chateaugay, N.Y., as reported by him in a letter to his father, Samuel Stoughton of Gill. Aside from these few facts, nothing further has been learned about our first medical practitioner.

Dr. Elisha Hollister, a native of Glastonbury, Conn., who had studied medicine under his brother-in-law, Dr. Asa Coleman, settled in Gill soon after its incorporation as a town. Possibly he came as Dr. Preston's successor, as the farm which eventually became his property was located in the same vicinity. Dr. Hollister married Aurelia Field, sister of the Grass Hill tavern-keeper, Ebenezer Field, Jr., and practiced medicine here until his death in 1833.

Dr. Joel Lyons, who came to Gill in 1807 at the age of twenty-four, having completed his medical preparation under the tutelage of Dr. Samuel Ross of Colrain, spent a lifetime in practice here. Like other physicians of those days, Dr. Lyon supplemented his meager fees by farming. He was also a justice of the peace, performed marriages, drew up wills, and penned deeds and other legal documents. At his death in 1857, he had spent half a century in administering to the aches and ailments of the inhabitants of Gill and neighboring towns.

Dr. William Richards, who had served in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon, in 1811 came to Gill where relatives resided, and practiced here until his death in 1825. His early experience had been gained in Connecticut where he had married Mary Shepard who is credited with having spun the woolen from which the coat was made that George Washington wore on his inauguration as first President of the United States.

Dr. Elijah Hayden, after the practice of medicine in New Salem and

Heath, settled in Gill about 1825 on what later was the Captain John A. Tenney farm on the road to Northfield. Dr. Hayden was principally a farmer, but was willing to prescribe for patients according to his own school of therapy.

Dr. Elijah P. Burton, a native of South Vernon, Vt., was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1853. In the following year he married Harriet, daughter of Rufus and Lucinda (King) Caldwell of West Northfield, and began practice in Wardsboro, Vt. Five years later he removed to the State of Illinois, and served in the Civil War as surgeon with an Illinois regiment in Sherman's army during the march through Georgia. At the close of the war, Dr. Burton came east again, started practice in Gill in November, 1865, and purchased the house at the center beside Beaver Brook. In 1868 he returned to the West and located in New York, Wayne County, Ia. In 1897 he removed to Corydon in the same state, and there died on April 23, 1903 at the age of seventy-seven.

Dr. Samuel Wright, from Winchester, N.H., died here in 1861 after a practice of some years. Dr. J. E. Richardson was here in 1863, and a Dr. Dykeman in 1873. Dr. E. M. Boynton was another doctor who practiced here for a time. He removed to Middlefield, Mass., in July 1890.

Dr. Niles Butler Sornborger located in Riverside about 1870 and built the imposing residence still standing on the slope opposite the entrance to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Dr. Sornborger, as manufacturer, had placed a number of his own prescriptions upon the market, one of which under the name "Arrum Triphyllum" enjoyed a considerable sale as a household remedy. Dr. Sornborger also acquired the town farm property and there erected a building which he used as a hospital for the treatment of invalids suffering from the diseases in which he specialized. "The Sornborger Sanitarium" was patronized by patients for a number of years.

Several doctors, natives of Gill or having passed their boyhood in the town, attained positions of prominence in other towns. Among them mention should be made of Dr. Timothy Childs, son of Captain Timothy Childs. He entered Harvard College in 1764, but left in 1767 to take up the study of medicine with Dr. Thomas Williams of Deerfield, and in 1771 started practice in Pittsfield, attaining high distinction in his profession during a lifetime of service there. As surgeon attached to Colonel Patterson's regiment in the Revolutionary War, he went on the expedition to Canada. Harvard College conferred an honorary degree of doctor of medicine upon him in 1811.

Alfred R. Goodrich, born in Gill September 29, 1818, attended Deerfield Academy, became an instructor in the institution, and later, its

principal. He then took up the study of medicine and was graduated with honors from the Berkshire Medical College in 1846. After practicing in New York City for several years, he located in Vernon, Conn., where he became prominent in medical and political circles, President of the Connecticut State Medical Society, a member of the Connecticut State Legislature, and State Comptroller. Dr. Goodrich was also President of the Mutual Benefit Life Company of Hartford.

Ebenezer Alexander Deane, the youngest of Jeremiah Deane's children, was six years old when his father removed to Gill. When a medical career was decided upon, he began his studies with Dr. Stephen Tabor of Shelburne Falls, then attended the Berkshire Medical College in Pittsfield, graduating in 1853. Dr. Deane started his practice in Jacksonville and Whitingham, Vt., but removed in 1861 to Montague and for more than forty years served that town faithfully as a physician and a public spirited citizen. He was elected a vice-president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and also held the office of President of the Franklin County Medical Society.

Charles Stacy, born in Gill May 10, 1802, had begun the practice of medicine when death ended his professional career at the early age of thirty-one.

George Washington Jackson, born in Gill August 26, 1805, son of the first pastor of the Gill church, became a practicing physician in Brome, Lower Canada, where the Reverend John Jackson settled after his departure from Gill. Dr. Jackson died at an early age, ending a promising career.

William Pitt Canning, born in Gill February 26, 1819, son of Reverend Josiah W. Canning, was commissioned an Assistant Surgeon in the United States Navy. He died at the age of twenty-six on board the "Vandalia" and was buried at sea.

Chapter 17

SCHOOLS

TOWN

Although educational appropriations were not wholly overlooked in the administration of early town matters, schooling was a haphazard affair, and home training was oftentimes more responsible for a child's attainments in "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic" than the teaching received in the short sessions provided in summer and winter by the town. A child's first acquaintance with the letters of the alphabet was gained at the knee of a parent or other relative, and the Bible provided the first book of instruction in reading and spelling.

No laws existed making attendance at school compulsory, and the subjects taught depended largely upon the teacher's qualifications. Advanced instruction in preparation for college requirements had to be obtained from tutors or private schools, and the family of a settled minister usually included several youths who were being coached for this purpose.

Few settlements possessed regular schoolhouses until the population was sufficient to demand it. The houses erected by the settlers after they had progressed beyond the log-cabin stage were usually provided with a large room, or often with an attached "ell," especially designed to accommodate the implements used in weaving, and such rooms provided school quarters for many years. Almost any housewife who had completed her complement of webs and had no use at the time for the loom-room was willing to loan or let it for school use. The school teacher divided time among these rooms, if there was more than one school, in proportion to the number of scholars taught in each.

The first book of records shows that Greenfield, after its separation from Deerfield in 1753, gave attention to the matter of schooling at an early date:

"Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to provide the District with School and Schoolhouse as Reasonable as they can till the first of April next." (December 14, 1753)

For the following ten years provision was made each year for schooling to some extent:

"Voted to hire a Chool Master three months and also a Room to keep Chool in." (October 12, 1758)

"Voted to Hire a School a year and Likewise that ye Selectmen be a Committee to Order How When and Where sd School shall be kept."
(December 5, 1763)

During the next few years the number of families in the town increased rapidly, and as these families were scattered throughout the township, more than one school was necessary to accommodate them all.

"Voted that there be seven Districts for Schooling to wit one in the street and three in the meadow one by Noah Allins one in the North East Corner and another at Ensign Childs and but one Master and He to move to each District according to ye proportion and to have a School Dame the other six months and she to Keep School in ye Several Districts according to ye proportion." (March 3, 1764)

By this vote, seven separate schoolrooms within the township were to be provided; the schools were to be kept in rotation, and the length of the school term was to be proportionate to the number of the scholars enrolled. Two of these schools were to be located in the section east of Fall River that afterward became Gill.

Such was the plan followed for several years. In 1770 the number of schools allotted this section of Greenfield was still two, one in the northeast to be provided by Benjamin Hosley, and the other in the southwest to be provided by Jonathan Sprague. No schoolhouses had been erected in the town up to that time, and the schools were "provided" by persons appointed to that duty. As population increased, however, the rotary system became inadequate; small progress could be accomplished in the short time allotted for instruction. As a consequence, a system similar to the later district school system was developed, under which the families in a neighborhood combined to maintain a school, and the expenses above the proportion of the town allotment was met by popular subscription, or by assessment. By the same methods of cooperative financing, permanent schoolhouses were erected in some sections, and between the years 1770-1775 at least three schoolhouses were built in the Gill section of Greenfield.

The first schoolhouses were those in the northeast and southwest, following out the same locations accorded schools that had been "provided." The first schoolhouse is supposed to have been the one that stood at the juncture of the Straits Road and the now discarded road from Factory Hollow. There were no problems concerning the transportation of scholars in those days, and children of tender ages trudged long distances to and from school. The schoolhouse at that point served not only the families in the immediate vicinity, but also those at "the Falls," and "in the Hollow," as well as those in between.

A schoolhouse was also erected in the northeast at about the same

time, but no records have been found to indicate its location. It probably did not stand where the North School is now located, as that site was chosen after the section of Northfield, now known as "Mount Hermon," had been annexed. It has been conjectured that it may have stood on or near the present Hayden property.

A schoolhouse at the center must have followed soon after the erection of the first two, and all three were in use in the year 1775. When Gill was incorporated as a town in 1793, there were five schoolhouses here, one in the west and another "at the Falls" having been built at some date in the interim.

In early records the schools were identified by reference to some landowner nearby. In 1794 the school in the center was called "at David Squires;" the one in the north "at Noah Munns;" in the west "at Jesse Hutchinsons;" in the straits "at Philip Ballards;" and the one at the Falls "at Esquire Smalleys."

Previous to 1823, the five schoolhouses served certain sections of the town, and though these sections were referred to as school districts, there were no fixed dividing lines to separate one district from another. Scholars attended whichever school best suited convenience or preference on the part of the parents, and the family was accordingly considered to belong to that particular district.

The advisability of dividing the town into definite school districts was brought before a special town meeting held on August 25, 1823, and the town voted that:

"A committee of five, one from each of the proposed school districts, district the town into such school districts: Alvah Ballard, for Center; Joseph Sprague, for Southwest; Seth S. Howland, for South; Dorus Bascom, for West; & Ezra Purple, for North."

The meeting was then adjourned two weeks, at which date the committee was to present recommendations, and the following report was then offered:

"The Committee to whome was appointed at a legal town Meeting held at the Meetinghouse in Gill on Monday the 25th of August AD 1823 to devide said town into school districts—have attended to that service and ask leave to Report that the several school districts in the said town of Gill be as follows, (Viz)

"the 1st North district Bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at Asa Stoughtons northeast line of land formerly owned by his farther Deceased including all the north part of the town to Northfield & Bernardston and including the farms of Elijah Severance & Amos Burrows.

"The 2nd North district bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at

the said northeast line of said Asa Stoughtons farm, then runing westerly on the road to the bridge near Ansom Bateses Blacksmith shop including James Gould—Then on the north road leading to Greenfield as far as Charles B. Stephens west line—Then on the Middle road taking in Reuben & Stephen Kenneys to Bernardston line.

“1st South district bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at Alva Ballard west line—Then easterly to Anson Bateses Blacksmith shop near the bridge—Then south to Stacys ferry so-called, including Alanson Roberts farm.

“The Southwestern district bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at Alva Ballards west line—Then westerly on the Straits road to Cornelius Allen farm—Then on the road by the schoolhouse to the Greenfield line including Horation Roberts, Amaziah Ballard & John Brooker—Then on the road by Joseph Spragues to Solomon Mallards north line.

“2nd South District bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at Cornelius Allens northeast line—Then on the road by his house to Fall river Bridge & the ferry—Then on the River road as far as Alanson Roberts south line including Solomon Mallard and all south of Solomon Mallard as far up as Samuel Slates.

“West district bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at Josiah Smiths east line—Then west to the west schoolhouse—Then on the road runing north from sd Josiah Smiths to Bernardston line—Then west on said line to Fall river—Then south on the country road leading from the west schoolhouse to land of John Brooker—including all west on sd road to Fall river.

“The Schoolhouse in the Middle of the town is to belong to the 2nd North and 1st South Districts Equally undevied—“It is the request of John McHard to belong to the North District as his property belongs in said District.”

All which is humbly submitted—

Dated at Gill Sept. the 8—AD 1823

Seth S. Howland
Ezra Purple
Joseph Sprague
Dorus Bascom
Alva Ballard

} Committee

The town refused to accede to John McHard’s request, but voted, otherwise, to accept the report of the committee.

According to the foregoing plan, the town was divided into six school districts, with five schoolhouses, the one in the center belonging equally to the 2nd North and the 1st South districts. This cooperative possession of the school building at the center was not carried out, however, as the 1st South district built a schoolhouse of its own before the year was out.

In 1833 the town voted to designate the districts by numbers, and the North became District No. 1; the Center, No. 2; the 1st South, No. 3; the West, No. 4; the Southwest, No. 5; and the 2nd South, No. 6. This system prevailed until the consolidation of the schools rendered the numerical distinctions unnecessary.

Each of these six districts functioned as a separate unit, the inhabitants of the district being responsible for the government of its school, and also for the support and maintenance in excess of the district’s proportion of state and town appropriations. The following guarantee by the heads of families in one of the districts to support a summer school for four months is of interest and indicates that the grownups probably needed schooling as well as the youngsters:

“We the Subscribers agree to pay our equal propotion according to the number of Scholars that we shall sign to send to school the ensuing sumner for the term of four months.”

Names	No. of scholars
Timothy Stoughton	2
David Denio	2
Jabez F. Bissell	2
Abraham Barnes	1
Elijah White	1
John Loveland	1
Laban White	1
Fregrace Frazier	2
Samuel Slate	1
Cornelius Allen	2

Little is definitely known concerning schools and school matters during the first twenty-five years of the town’s history. All the record books of these districts have been lost, except some belonging to Districts No. 5 and No. 6, and these go back only to the second decade of Gill’s history. However, the books of the town treasurers, the church records, the land records, and other miscellaneous sources of information yield some facts.

The first schoolhouse in Gill Center stood on the knoll above Woodward's Brook where the Center Road from West Gill joins the Northfield Road, later the site of the Phelps tavern, and at present, the lot on which the Marble garage stands. It was built before 1775, as the Center Road was laid out in that year "from the schoolhouse near Woodward's brook to the Iron Works on Fall river." Fire destroyed this schoolhouse on the night of February 13, 1807, and a brick schoolhouse to replace it was built at the western end of the lot on the opposite side of the common. The use of this brick building as a town schoolhouse ended in 1823 when the town was divided into school districts, and it passed into private ownership on April 25, 1824 when Roswell Purple, Samuel G. Chapin, Warren Strickland, and John Chase deeded to Samuel Stratton, 2nd, "a certain Brick Schoolhouse near the house of said Stratton and the land it stands on known as the Centre Brick Schoolhouse in the town of Gill." (Bk. 61, p. 243.) The schoolhouse built by the 2nd North District at that time was located west of the County Road to Bernardston at its junction with Mill Lane, and was used as a school location until 1895 when the school was discontinued and the scholars divided between Districts No. 1 and No. 3. The building then in use was purchased in 1911 by Herbert Hastings (Bk. 561, p. 282.) who converted it into his present dwelling.

The first schoolhouse in the southwest stood at the junction of the Straits Road and the old road from Factory Hollow to the center. From the windows of this school one August day in 1788, the scholars watched the trees in the nearby woodlands "fall like grain before the scythe," when the memorable hurricane of that year swept down from the north, crossed Log Plain in Greenfield and cut a swath through the section of Gill above Cascade Hill.

A new schoolhouse was erected in the same location in 1817, and ten years later John Chase, the town tax collector, was authorized to collect the schoolhouse tax from the families in the district and to pay off the notes given by the district to cover the costs of building. This schoolhouse was abandoned in 1835 on completion of the relocated County Road from Factory Hollow to Gill Center, and the consequent discontinuance of the section of the old road on which the schoolhouse was located. A schoolhouse 22 feet by 18 feet was built beside the new County Road on a piece of land which the records of the school district state was donated for the purpose by Nathaniel Hoisington. Mr. Hoisington died on January 14, 1837, and his farm was sold on April 17 of the same year to Alsetus Roberts, no reservation for the school property being made in the conveyance. (Bk. 99, p. 50.) In June, Mr. Roberts sold Benjamin Barton the part of the Hoisington farm south of the new County Road

(Bk. 114, p. 81.) and on November 8, Mr. Barton sold the land on which the schoolhouse stood to No. 5 School District for \$5.00. This deed drawn in 1837 was not offered for record until November 17, 1908. (Bk. 541, p. 113.)

The schoolhouse built in 1835 was used until 1895, when dwindling attendance closed the school and the scholars were transported to District No. 3. The building was purchased and removed by Mrs. Mary J. E. Bardwell who converted it into the tenement still occupied by her son, Walter G. Bardwell.

District No. 1 in the north possessed one of the earliest schoolhouses; the exact location first occupied cannot be determined, but the present site was in use as early as 1821. Warren Strickland in that year reserved the schoolhouse and the land on which it stood, when he conveyed his property to James Day. (Bk. 47, p. 343.) A new schoolhouse was built there between 1845 and 1850, but other records concerning this district are lacking. In 1905 the town purchased about three-quarters of an acre of adjacent land from Warren M. Hale to accommodate an addition to the school building, and in recent years the buildings have been considerably renovated and remodeled.

There was no schoolhouse in West Gill until about the time that the town was incorporated. Mr. Dorus Bascom, who was born in the old Bascom homestead on Fall River in 1784, first attended school in the ell part of a log house in that section, according to family records. The crossroads in West Gill have probably always been the schoolhouse site, as there was one there in 1804. (Bk. 19, p. 363.) In 1836 the schoolhouse was referred to as "The Red Schoolhouse." (Bk. 137, p. 269.) A commendable public spirit on the part of the West Gill District was indicated, as there were schoolhouses in other districts that at a much later date had never received a coat of paint. When it became necessary to erect a new schoolhouse in 1879, the district built a brick structure which at that time was considered to be a model school building. It served the town for sixty years, and was then closed as an additional step in the consolidation of the schools.

District No. 3 in the southeast was not formed until 1823 when the town was divided into six school districts. It had no schoolhouse at the center. The new district, however, preferred to erect a school building of its own, and one was built on the east side of the road a short distance north of the road to Janes's mills. About 1850 the district built a new schoolhouse and located it on the north side of the road just below its junction with the road up Pisgah Mountain. This schoolhouse, which was by far the best in the town at the time of its erection, was destroyed by fire during the night of January 13, 1873. It was replaced by a new

building which at some later date was removed to the opposite side of the road. For many years this schoolhouse accommodated all the scholars from District No. 5 and some from District No. 2, in addition to the scholars in its own district, after the closing of the schools in the former districts in 1895. Changing centers of school population caused a further readjustment in 1923 when the Sunnyside schoolhouse was built, and again in 1930 when the school in District No. 3 was permanently closed. Five years later the building was purchased by Francis W. Totman who now occupies the premises.

The first schoolhouse in Riverside District No. 6 was built not long before the incorporation of the town. The few scholars from the vicinity of "the Falls" and from Factory Hollow previously had attended the school at the head of the Straits Road, but the arrival of younger families caused the inhabitants in these adjacent sections to combine in forming a school district of their own. The schoolhouse stood on the old road now converted into the French King Highway about one-third of the distance from Heal-All Brook to the Barton farmhouse. This site was chosen as a central location for the accommodation of scholars in and between Pisgah and Factory Hollow. A schoolhouse at this location was destroyed by fire on February 4, 1807, a little more than a week before the schoolhouse at the center was burned, and a new school building was erected on the same spot. Scholars from Factory Hollow continued to attend this school until 1837, when a schoolhouse was built by the Town of Greenfield on Fall Brook Hill just above the hollow. There were also periods when scholars from the Montague side of the Connecticut River were admitted, as children in the families living near the ferry reached school age.

The school building that replaced the one burned in 1807 appears to have given service for over fifty years, although agitation for a larger and better structure was started at times in the years subsequent to 1840. Finally in 1860 the district elected a committee composed of L. P. Platt, T. M. Stoughton, and Z. W. Scott to draw up plans for a new schoolhouse. The plans presented were accepted, and as a concession to the scholars from Pisgah, because scholars from Factory Hollow no longer had to be given consideration, the new schoolhouse was located further eastward on land donated by Mr. Herrick Howland. In 1884 the building was doubled in size by an addition to accommodate the primary grades, and in this room the writer first started along the path of learning under the capable guidance of Miss Anna M. Dwyer, who later rounded out many years of efficient teaching in the schools of Greenfield. In 1884 Mr. Howland's heirs deeded the 30,000 square feet of land occupied by the combined school buildings to the town. (Bk. 438, p. 223.) This

schoolhouse was abandoned in 1926 when the modern three-room building was erected on land purchased from Henry B. Barton, nearly opposite Mr. Barton's farmhouse, and within a "stone's throw" of the spot where the first schoolhouse stood.

Jeremiah P. Morgan purchased the old, unpainted schoolhouse discarded in 1860, and moved it to the Greenfield property occupied by him at the top of Fall Brook Hill, where it served as an addition to his blacksmith shop until, with the other buildings, it was destroyed by fire.

A small shed-like building that has stood on the Barton property for more than a century, has always been pointed out as an old Gill schoolhouse. It is not definitely known whether it was on the farm at the time of its purchase from the Howlands, or if it was subsequently acquired by one of the Bartons. No record has been discovered to identify it as any particular schoolhouse, and thereby substantiate the tradition. It is quite probable, however, that it may be an early schoolhouse antedating the one burned in 1807. The old building has recently been raised from the mediocrity of a nondescript farm shed by relocation beside the French King Highway, where it has been transformed into the "Gift Shop" operated by Mrs. Herbert L. Barton.

Until about the year 1850 the winter session of the town schools was generally taught by a schoolmaster, while the summer term was taught by a schoolmistress. This was due to the fact that a school in winter was attended by the older boys and girls whose work was needed on the farms in the summer, and strapping youths with ebullient spirits were sometimes beyond the control of a woman teacher. The compensation received for teaching was not particularly remunerative, even though measured by the standards then current. However, teachers had no board bills to pay, as it was the custom "to board round." Each family in the district sheltered and fed the teacher for a length of time proportionate to the number of children it sent to school. Over a period of many years, the customary pay for a schoolmaster was \$10 per month, while a schoolmistress received \$1 per week.

Seth Clapp was paid \$30 for teaching the winter session of three months "at the Falls" in 1822-3, where thirty-five scholars were registered: Gill 22, Greenfield 8, and Montague 5. Cynthia Withed received \$12 for teaching the summer school for the same length of time. In 1836 Joseph Franklin received \$36 for teaching the winter term of twelve weeks, the pay having been raised to \$3 per week. At the end of another ten years the schoolmasters had received a material increase, as Gustavus Bissell was paid \$60 for teaching the winter term in 1848. However, the day of the schoolmaster was about over, for within a few years the town schools were taught by schoolmistresses both summer and winter. They

also had their stipends gradually raised: \$1.25, \$1.50, and \$1.75 per week. When it reached the last figure, school teaching was considered a well-paid occupation for young ladies. Experience Bascom taught school in the Town of Gill for nearly twenty years previous to her marriage in 1868, and when, in the later years as an inducement to retain her service, she was paid \$3 per week, the kettle of town talk seethed and steamed, and in some households is reported to have boiled over.

Gill has always tried to engage teachers fully qualified to instruct, and was one of the towns early to recognize the fact that special training was required as a preparation for teaching. The report of the Gill School Committee published in the "Massachusetts School Returns" for the year 1841-42 emphasized this fact, and an abbreviated quotation from the report follows:

"The time has unquestionably arrived, and for the public good imperiously requires, that teaching should be accounted a more professional employment. And to this end, your committee would recommend (that those) who engage in this course of employment spend some time in preparatory schools instituted purposely for this great and good object. There are two schools of this description in the Commonwealth, of high character, and so far as the observation of your committee extends, teachers therein prepared have uniformly acquitted themselves in a manner highly satisfactory to their employers."

In 1894 the matter of school superintendence was brought before the annual town meeting, and Mr. H. A. Pratt, who was then living in Gill, having retired to private life after many years spent in conducting a preparatory school in Shelburne, was induced to take the superintendency of the Gill schools. In the following year, the town was invited to combine with the towns of Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick in employing a joint superintendent, and the town voted to do so at a special town meeting held on April 16, 1895, an arrangement that has proved successful and is still in operation. The following persons have served as superintendents: J. E. Warren 1895-01, W. H. Cummings 1901-05, Mortimer H. Bowman 1905-11, Clinton J. Richards 1911-17, Elmer F. Howard 1917-21, Everett J. Best 1921-25, Linville W. Robbins 1925-41, and Robert N. Taylor 1941-.



Riverside School pupils and teacher (Flora B. Williams). Taken May 23, 1888.



West Gill School.



South School pupils and teacher, around 1915.



Riverside School, 1889.



North School.



South Cross Road School pupils and teacher, about 1888.



Students and teacher at one-room North School in the 1880's.



North School students and teacher in the 1890's.



New Riverside School, early 1940's. Opened in 1926.



Sunnyside School students and teacher (Mrs. Charles R. Browning) in the 1940's.

MOUNT HERMON

As soon as the permanent settlement of Northfield had been well established, settlers began to take up the fertile farm land on the hillside above the west bank of the Connecticut River adjoining the Deerfield town line, and by the year 1720 several families were located there. The settlers called it "Grass Hill" because of its verdant pasturage, and for over one-hundred and fifty years Grass Hill was the name commonly applied to that section of West Northfield. When Gill was incorporated as a town, the residents there immediately petitioned for annexation to Gill, and Grass Hill formally became a part of the town in 1795.

Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, a native of Northfield, in 1879 started a school in Northfield for girls, embodying some innovations in the concept of educational training. Mr. Moody, remembering his own limited opportunities for an education, was deeply concerned about the restricted possibilities for advanced study within the reach of the greater part of the rising generations of boys and girls. His attention was especially drawn to the great number of worthy and capable young women found in the rural districts, who, although reared in families of eminent respectability, were compelled to spend their time at trivial tasks because the benefit of higher education was denied them when parents lacked the necessary means. Mr. Moody believed that education was the acquirement not only of "book-learning," but also of knowledge on how to perform well the ordinary domestic duties of life. It was his plan that students themselves should do the work required to run the school, and in this way gain practical experience, and at the same time pay partly for their tuition. The school was to be open to all girls who honestly sought its benefits, and the duties were to be impartially and democratically shared.

Mr. Moody's close association with Henry F. Durant, the founder of Wellesley College where a somewhat similar plan was being tested, gave him added encouragement to start such a school for girls seeking college preparation. It was Mr. Moody's expectation that the scholars would come from the immediate vicinity of Northfield, but from the very start applications were far in excess of the accommodations, and many from great distances sought admission. Mr. Moody soon found that his school, undertaken for the benefit of girls in his own neighborhood, was appealing to a far wider field, and that growth and expansion was assured.

The success of the undertaking immediately brought forth urgent demands that Mr. Moody include boys as well as girls in his project. A coeducational institution, however, was wholly contrary to Mr. Moody's judgment. Besides, new buildings and additional requirements for a

larger staff of teachers used up all the available funds, which for the most part were obtained from contributions received by Mr. Moody during his evangelical tours.

East Hall, a new dormitory at the Northfield School, was dedicated on September 10, 1880, and among those who came to attend the exercises was Hiram Camp, President of the New Haven Clock Company. Mr. Camp was interested in many charities, and intended to include a bequest in his will to some institution of philanthropical importance. He had come to Northfield with the intention of consulting Mr. Moody about it, and obtaining his advice. When the matter was brought to Mr. Moody's attention, he asked why, instead of leaving the gift as a bequest, Mr. Camp did not make the contribution at once, and thus be able to observe and enjoy the fruits of his beneficence during his own lifetime. Mr. Moody told how he was being urged to admit boys to the Northfield School, but had no desire to add such a complication to the situation. He then suggested that Mr. Camp start a school somewhere, and do for boys exactly what the Northfield School was attempting to do for girls. The idea appealed to Mr. Camp strongly. He became enthusiastic over such an educational opportunity, but, being at the time seventy years of age, felt unequal to such a task personally. Instead, he offered to contribute \$25,000 toward the project if Mr. Moody would establish such a school for boys in conjunction with the Northfield School for girls.

Mr. Moody, with his great concern for the educational advancement of the underprivileged of both sexes, could hardly refuse so generous an offering toward a school so much needed, and at once began to prospect for a suitable location that would provide not only fitting surroundings for the school, but would furnish also ample and productive land to support such an institution by giving the boys first hand farming and dairy-ing experience, in addition to the other occupational labors more intimately connected with the operation of such a school.

Mr. Moody brought Mr. Camp to Grass Hill in Gill as probably the best location in the neighborhood for the proposed enterprise. The high elevation overlooking the Connecticut River presented a vista in the September sunshine that delighted Mr. Camp. Could any boy, he wondered, gaze unaffectively on such a landscape, rimmed in to the eastward by the Northfield hills with the peak of Mt. Monadnock above them in the far distance, and not gain a broadening and a strengthening outlook from such associations. The location seemed to him to be ideal. Within the next ten days, two farms comprising some 275 acres had been purchased, and preparations were soon under way to remodel the main farmhouse into quarters suitable for student accommodations. Mr.

Camp christened the spot "Mount Hermon" to commemorate the mount where the ancient prophets paused for rest and meditation. The Mount Hermon School was opened May 1, 1881 with one student and Miss Mary L. Hammond as teacher and domestic manager.

Two years later, with the increasing number of students and the development of additional school facilities, it became necessary that there be a headmaster for its management, and Mr. Eli A. Hubbard was obtained to assume that duty. Ill health, however, allowed Mr. Hubbard to remain only one year, and Henry A. Sawyer, his successor, directed the school from 1884 to 1890. Henry F. Cutler was then called to become the headmaster. Following his graduation from Amherst College in 1886, he had taught for one year at Mount Hermon, and then had gone abroad for further study. Under his guidance the school became a foremost eastern preparatory institution, with a growth that was rapid and enduring. When Mr. Cutler retired in 1932 after a service of 42 years, he had probably welcomed over 15,000 boys to Mount Hermon, and had witnessed the growth of the school from a few scattered buildings to a campus beautifully landscaped and dotted with brick and stone structures of high architectural merit.

From the one-scholar institution of 1881, Mount Hermon has expanded to an annual enrollment of some 500 students; it embraces over 1,200 acres of land, and has an invested endowment of nearly two million dollars; its teaching and administrative staff comprises a personnel of nearly seventy-five, many of whom have gone elsewhere to assume positions of prominence, among them notably, James L. McConaughy who became President of Wesleyan College and then the Governor of Connecticut.

Today Grass Hill is known as Mount Hermon, the beautiful location of the school for boys founded by the evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, to which students from almost every country on the globe have come for college preparation and instruction in the moralities of Christian living.



Memorial Chapel, Mount Hermon School for Boys.



Barnyard, Mount Hermon School for Boys.

Chapter 18

TOWN HALL

No effort to erect a town hall is recorded before the year 1844. Early town meetings and other public assemblies were held in the church or in one of the taverns containing a hall, and such accommodation was apparently satisfactory during the first seventy-five years, as no building was erected until 1867, nearly twenty-five years after the subject was first entered as an article in a town warrant.

It was voted at a town meeting held on May 2, 1844 "to build a Town House which should be equally free for every religious and political party, for a sum not to exceed \$800." A committee, composed of the selectmen and four others, was appointed to proceed with the project, and the following advertisement, dated May 21, 1844, was published:

Notice to House Carpenters.

The subscribers wish to contract with some suitable person or persons, for the erection of a Town House in Gill, two stories high, 24 feet by 40.

Apply immediately by letter or otherwise to either

Henry Bascom
Dorus Bascom
Alvah Ballard
Perrin N. Richards
Nelson Burrows
Timothy M. Stoughton
Jos. D. Canning

Building Committee

Nothing, however, was accomplished at that time as the town voted at a meeting held on June 3, 1844 "to annul the doings of the Town at a meeting held May 2, relative to the building of a Town House."

More than twenty years elapsed before the matter was again brought forward, when an article "To see if the Town will build a Town House," was included in a warrant for the annual town meeting on March 5, 1866, at which meeting it was voted "to pass over the Article." The same article was entered in the warrant for a meeting held in the following November,

when it was voted "that a committee of seven be chosen by nomination to procure a plan & specifications, select a location, estimate the probable cost, and to report." The committee chosen by nomination was composed of Nelson Burrows, Timothy M. Stoughton, Prentice Slate, Dexter A. Clark, Jonathan S. Purple, Roswell Purple, and Simon C. Phillips.

The committee duly reported that between \$2,600 and \$2,800 was the estimated cost, and that the Bates lot could be purchased for \$200, or the former Chenery lot for \$125. A vote was then passed "that the Town erect a suitable building for the use of the Town to be completed, including the cost of location, within the sum of Three Thousand Dollars." Whereupon a Building Committee was chosen, composed of Nelson Burrows, Simon C. Phillips, Roswell Purple, Prentice Slate, and Dexter A. Clark.

The Bates lot was acquired, and on January 7, 1867, the contract for the building was awarded to Oliver B. Greene, the lowest of four bidders, for \$2,550 plus an allowance of \$100 for the underpinning. The building was raised on the afternoon of August 26th, and was completed early in the following December under the superintendence of Eli W. Thompson as master carpenter. The settees for the hall were furnished by Augustus Dyke of Montague, and the total cost of the building and furniture was \$3,380.86.

The first public gathering in the new hall was a Fair and Festival held Thursday, December the 19th. Dedication exercises were held on February 5, 1868, and the program included an invocation by Reverend Edward J. Giddings, and addresses by Town Clerk Josiah D. Canning and Reverend John F. Moors of Greenfield.

The Town Hall at that time was a one-story building. It was remodeled and a second story added in 1910.



Town Hall when one story.

Chapter 19

LIBRARIES

GILL CENTER

In 1870 the proportion of dog-tax money refunded towns by county treasurers became available for library purposes in the small towns of the Commonwealth. This appears to have been the incentive that first prompted the citizens of Gill to consider the establishment of a town library. At the regular annual town meeting that year it was voted to set aside the dog-tax money returned "for the establishment of a library in the town for the use of the people." The same vote was passed in the following year with added provision that the town have the benefit of the fund and pay interest thereon as long as the money remained in the town treasury.

At the town meeting in 1872, when the same vote was passed for the third time, it was judged that an amount had accumulated sufficient for the purchase of enough books to provide the nucleus for a library, and Josiah D. Canning, Otis Hale, and Samuel P. Stratton were members of a committee elected to spend the fund and arrange for the proper library accommodations. The project was given added impetus by the gift of \$100 by Mr. Elisha Clapp, one of the town's highly respected citizens, a man of much public spirit.

Josiah D. Canning was the first librarian. Mr. Canning, who had been largely instrumental in arousing the town to action for the establishment of a library, was at that time the village postmaster, and the infant library was first cradled in the little building that stood on the Canning property, and used at that time as the post office. Originally it had served as the office of the first postmaster, Benjamin Brainard, and had been moved to its later location by Mr. Canning's father, the Reverend Josiah W. Canning, when he became Mr. Brainard's successor, and it had been used by him as post office and study during the major part of his long pastorate over the First Congregational Church. In it he had written his sermons, pursued his studies, and tutored the youths who came to him for college preparation.

The salary of the first librarian was five dollars per annum, and the town records show that Mr. Canning received this remuneration for four consecutive years.

In 1876 the town elected the first committee chosen for continuous

library administration, previous committees having been chosen only for the performance of particular duties. The first Library Committee consisted of Samuel P. Stratton, Chairman, Otis F. Hale, and Elisha Clapp.

Mr. Canning resigned both as postmaster and librarian in December 1875, and the library books were transferred to the Marble house nearby. Miss Isabel Marble became the second librarian and likewise received five dollars per year for her services, but was allowed three dollars in addition as rental. Eleven years later Miss Marble passed the care of the library to her sister, Miss Maria Marble, who acted as librarian for two years, the compensation having been raised to a total of ten dollars.

During the next fifteen years the library wandered from house to house like an unwelcome waif, and the homes of those who successively served as librarians continued to provide shelter. During the early part of 1890 it was located in the parsonage and Mrs. E. M. Boynton, wife of the village doctor, was the librarian. When Mr. Boynton removed to Middlefield in July 1890, the library was transferred to the house of E. P. Deane, and Mrs. Deane was the librarian. Two years later it was moved to the home of Mrs. Henry Purple who was custodian of the books for seven years. In 1899 the library returned to the Marble house, and Mrs. Jay Marble was librarian. Mrs. J. R. Franklin was the next guardian of the books, and about two years later Mrs. James Hingley acted as librarian for a time. In 1904 the library was transferred to the village store, and Otis F. Hale, storekeeper and postmaster, performed the librarian's duties for the following six years.

In 1909 Mr. Hollis Slate of Athol, whose forbears for a number of generations had been natives of Gill, left a bequest to the town for a library building as a memorial to his father, Prentice Smead Slate. This bequest of \$8,000, however, was not available during the lifetime of his widow.

In 1910 the Town Hall was remodeled into a two-story building, and here the library was provided accommodations in one of the rooms, pending the time when a permanent library building should be erected. This room was equipped with shelving and bookcases from library funds, while other necessary equipment and furniture were the gifts of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Here for the first time, the library assumed the aspects of a real library with proper appointments, and under the direction of Mrs. Carrie Canning Wrisley, daughter of the first librarian, a marked increase in patronage and circulation immediately resulted.

In 1921 the town came into possession of the legacy from Hollis M. Slate. Mr. Slate had intended his bequest to include a piece of land upon

which the library building could be erected, but death came before the purchase had been arranged. His heirs, however, generously relinquished the required amount, and the land on which the library now stands was a gift from them. The deed of conveyance, dated February 10, 1920 (Bk. 631, p. 232.) restricts the use of the land "to the purpose of a public park and the purpose of a site for said 'Prentice Slate Memorial Library' building, and for no other purpose whatsoever."

Ground was broken on June 7, 1921 by F. Martineau & Son, contractors of Turners Falls, to whom the building contract had been awarded by the building committee, composed of the Library Trustees and the Selectmen. The plans were drawn by J. Randolph Coolidge, architect of Boston, who personally supervised the construction. The building is a cement-block structure, in accordance with the provisions of the bequest, and has a steep, sloping roof. The ornamental wrought-iron lettering and numerals on the exterior of the building are the handiwork of Herbert Hastings, for many years the village blacksmith.

On December 1, 1921 the library was moved from the room in the Town Hall, where it had been located for eleven years, to its new and permanent quarters, the Slate Memorial Library. Formal dedication of the new library took place in the following summer, the exercises being part of the program of Old Home Day, August 22, 1922. Mrs. William A. Boyle, who had succeeded Mrs. Wrisley in 1918, continued as librarian. To the three years of service as librarian in the Town Hall, Mrs. Boyle added seven years as librarian of the Slate Memorial Library. Her successor, Mrs. Alice G. Blake, assumed the librarianship on January 1, 1929, and is the present incumbent.

In addition to the generous remembrance of Hollis M. Slate, there have been several other gifts and bequests to the town library besides those already mentioned. A large number of books were donated by Mrs. Martha Clapp of Boston when the library was first started. Books were also received as a bequest from Mrs. Robert A. Cook of Northfield, who in early life, as Lucinda Goodrich of Gill, had been a well-known teacher in her native town and in many others nearby. The Gill Dramatic Club in 1883 donated \$12 for the purchase of books.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society, formed in the early nineties, has aided the library in many ways. It provided the furnishings for the library quarters in the Town Hall, and when the Slate Memorial Library was opened, it again assisted in the purchase of necessary furniture. From time to time it donated funds to purchase books, the fourteenth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica being a highly prized gift at the time it was received. In 1935 the organization of the Society was dissolved, and although it had been inactive for many years, a balance still

remained in its treasury. As its final benefaction, the Society gave the Library Trustees \$250—\$50 in cash to provide the library with additional shelving and furniture, and a Trust Fund of \$200, the income to be used for the benefit of the Slate Memorial Library. The bookcases at the backs of the settles, and the handmade dictionary stand in the reference room, the craftsmanship of Ernest V. Yukl, are part of the equipment obtained from the \$50 donation.

Among other furnishings in the Slate Memorial Library, mention should be made of the two fine mahogany tables that came as a bequest from Mrs. Robert A. Cook. Mrs. William A. Boyle and her brother, Lyman Hale, gave the four small chairs at the children's table, which were made in 1842 by their father, George Barney Hale, when sixteen years old, from a maple tree cut on the Hale farm on the crest of Mt. Pisgah.

The spreading antlers over the fireplace came from an elk shot in the State of Oregon and were presented to the library by Fred Severance. The andirons were given by Mr. and Mrs. Peleg W. Eddy. The shovel and tongs were once the property of Deacon Willard Lovering, and went through the fire that took the lives of Deacon Lovering and his housekeeper when the house was struck by lightning and destroyed in August 1888. The little mezzanine balcony contains many relics and heirlooms that have been lent or given to the library. The bible presented to the church by Lieutenant Governor Gill, in whose honor the town was named, and the early church and parish records, have been deposited in the library for safekeeping and are kept in a locked cabinet in the reference room. The library also cherishes the family bible of Isaac Chenery, who was born in the Chenery homestead that once occupied the present site of the Slate Memorial Library.

In addition to the Ladies' Benevolent Society's fund of \$200 for the benefit of the Slate Memorial Library, the town also has the following Trust Funds, the income being available for library purposes: Mary Morgan bequest, \$100; Charles R. Stoughton bequest, \$300; George W. Harris bequest, \$1,000; Gill Protective Association gift, \$100; Home Aid Society gift, \$239.42.

RIVERSIDE

Although all the citizens of the town were entitled to the privileges of the library at the Center, the people of Riverside had little share in it as the distance made it inconvenient for them. Accordingly in 1886 the town voted to take half of the books in the library at the Center to form a library in the Village of Riverside, an interchange of books to be made between the two libraries every six months. Accommodations were obtained in the store of Levi M. Tucker and the Riverside Library came into



Slate Memorial Library, Gill Center.

existence. Mr. Tucker acted as the librarian for the next four years. Frank D. Jones, who purchased Mr. Tucker's property and business in 1890, also retained the library and acted as librarian.

In the course of twenty-five years, the patronage and circulation of the library increased to a point where more adequate quarters became necessary, and the town therefore voted in 1911 to hire the building that formerly had been the office of the Turners Falls Lumber Company. Mr. W. O. Comstock, who owned the property, permitted the town to have it at a nominal annual rental, provided the town assumed the burden of maintenance. The local Home Aid Society held a supper and contributed the proceeds to help defray the expense of painting and renovating the

building. The Riverside Library was formally opened in its new location on May 16, 1911, and the improved accommodations at once attracted an increased circle of patrons.

Mr. Jones was librarian until 1922 when the services of Mrs. Margaret D. Luther were secured. During the eight years of her supervision the library became virtually an independent unit, the semiannual interchange of books having been discontinued many years before. Due to her interest and efficiency the circulation increased rapidly, and continued to do so under the direction of Mrs. Emma F. Rosewarne who became librarian in 1931 upon the resignation of Mrs. Luther.

The Riverside Library is the beneficiary of the George W. Harris and the Home Aid Society Trust Funds. It also has the income of a \$100 Trust Fund, the bequest of Miss Cora H. Holmes, to be expended in the purchase of books for the Children's Department.

Ralph M. Stoughton, Chairman, Mrs. Lyman Hale, and Mrs. Dorothy B. Rikert are the members of the present Board of Library Trustees for the town.

The following Library Trustees have given ten or more years of service: Mrs. Lyman Hale, 25; Frank D. Jones, 18; Ralph M. Stoughton, 15; Dorilla O. Paul, 14; Frank B. Foster, 13; Miss Maverette Johnson, 13; Walter E. Clapp, 10.

Among others who have served as Library Trustees are: Samuel P. Stratton, Otis F. Hale, Elisha Clapp, Frank W. Chapin, Clesson H. Blake, Albert Sanderson, Alfred M. Adams, Levi M. Tucker, Henry B. Barton, Francis Foster, Mrs. Horace Church, James McConaughy, later Governor of Connecticut, Grove W. Deming, Mrs. Grace B. Boyle, Ernest E. Blake, Richard F. Clapp, and Mrs. Alice C. Blake.

Chapter 20

CEMETERIES

The oldest burial ground in the town is the North Cemetery which was in use prior to the Revolutionary War. No record indicates the exact date at which it was set apart, but the earliest burial inscribed on any marker in the cemetery is that of Timothy, aged 2 years, son of Samuel and Sarah Stoughton, who died October 17, 1777, the day on which his father witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. Family tradition states that Lieutenant Stoughton's company was immediately disbanded after the surrender, and that he at once started for home on foot with all speed. Arriving two days later in midafternoon at the brow of the hill above his farm, and looking eagerly down for the first glimpse of the home he had not seen for two months, he was startled to observe a funeral procession leaving his dooryard. He had returned just in time to attend the last rites for his youngest child. Nancy, aged 4 years, who died in 1785, and Ira, aged 1 year, who died in 1788, both children also of Samuel and Sarah Stoughton, are the next oldest burials noted by inscription.

Other early burials marked by stones are those of Daniel Slate, died 10 Feb. 1789, aged 81; Mrs. Ruth Foot, died 7 Aug. 1792, in 88th y.; Samuel C., son of Thaddeus and Poley Wright, died 10 May 1793, a. 4 w.; Mr. Obed Foot, died 21 Sept. 1797, in 56th y; Mary, widow Daniel Slate, died 10 Aug. 1795, aged 83; Ruth, wife of Benjamin Hosley Jr., died 16 Mar. 1796, aged 40; Feronia, dau. Hon. Job and Lydia Goodale, died 14 Apr. 1798, aged 3; Patty, wife of Ebenezer Slate, died 30 Apr. 1799, aged 50; Penelope, widow Capt. Elisha Hollister, died 13 Aug. 1801, aged 68; Benjamin Hosley, died 28 Aug. 1803, aged 82 y. 4 m. 11 d., an inscription that proves gravestones are not always trustworthy. Mr. Hosley died 28 Sept. 1803 according to the town record, a date that agrees with the age inscribed on the headstone.

The North Cemetery became town property in 1804, when the town voted to purchase two-thirds of an acre, including the half-acre already set apart, and to pay Ebenezer Slate, who then owned the land, at the rate of \$20 per acre. In 1909 additional land was purchased of Arthur A. Chapin, owner of the former Slate farm (Bk. 535, p. 266.) and from Peleg W. Eddy in 1915 (Bk. 615, p. 58.).

The epidemic of 1802 brought death to several families in the west-

ern section of the town, and the West Gill Cemetery was laid out in that year on a part of the Daniel Brooks's farm on the road to the old Iron Works in Bernardston, and Mr. Brooks, by vote of the town at the 1802 December town meeting, was paid \$4 for the land taken. In 1894 approximately 10,000 square feet of additional land was bought. (Bk. 534, p. 335.)

A few of the earliest gravestones in the West Gill Cemetery follow: Eunice, wife of Dea. Moses Bascom, died 21 July 1802, aged 60; Obediah & Olive, children of Moses & Eunice Scott, died Oct. 1802, aged 2 & 3 yrs.; Ralph, son of George & Lusinda Goodrich, died 24 Oct. 1802, aged 1 y. 7 m.; Capt. Moses Richards, died 14 Dec. 1802, aged 36; Ly-sander B., son Eldad and Experience Hosmer, died 19 Jan. 1804, aged 7 m; Dea. Moses Bascom, died 19 Sept. 1805, aged 69.

The Riverside Cemetery antedates the incorporation of the town, but the earliest graves were marked by field stones, and traces of these graves and stones that were once there have now disappeared. Captain Timothy Childs and Mary (Wells) Childs, George and Abigail (Crocker) Howland, and members of their families probably repose in the south-west corner, but the exact location of each grave is unmarked and unknown. The earliest gravestone in the cemetery is inscribed:

In memory of
Mr Nahum Day
late of Chesterfield N H
son of Mr Ezra and
Mrs Marcy Day who
was drowned in Con-
necticut river at Millers
falls 24 April 1802
and was buried here
17 May in the 23 year
of his age

In 1806 the town purchased for 16 shillings of Charles Williams a piece of land 6 rods square for a cemetery, including the plat already in use. In 1810 the town appropriated \$180 to clear and fence the several town burial grounds, and placed the matter in charge of the following committees: North, Nathan Williams, Dr. Hollister & Zephaniah Pitts; West, Moses Bascom, Oliver Root & Mr. Merrill; South, Reuben Shattuck, Seth S. Howland & Solomon Mallard.

Some ten years later the Riverside Cemetery became the property of the School District in that section, the reason for the transfer not being recorded. In 1836 Cornelius Allen, who owned the former Charles Wil-

liams's farm, deeded the No. 6 School District a piece of land adjoining the cemetery on the north side with a frontage of 6 rods and depth of 12 rods, reserving to himself a plat 28 feet by 34 feet in the northwest corner. (Bk. 104, p. 260.) In 1879 Mr. Allen's heirs by deed to the South School District No. 6 retracted the reservation and made the family lot a part of the cemetery. (Bk. 344, p. 267.) When the school districts were discontinued in 1882, the cemetery was taken over by the Riverside Cemetery Association and has since been under its control. Several additions to the cemetery have since been made by purchase of land from Timothy M. Stoughton or Benjamin Barton, or their heirs.

Among the early gravestones in this cemetery are those of Wheelock, son of Solomon and Anna Mallard, 5 June 1807, aged 10; Priscilla, dau. of Timothy and Eunice Stoughton, 24 June 1813, aged 3; Seth Combs, 14 Dec. 1818, aged 41; Mrs. Betsey, wife of Mr. Samuel Luce, 5 Sept. 1812, aged 61; Dea. Reuben Shattuck, 3 June 1814, aged 65; Mrs. Ruth, Relict of Dea. Reuben Shattuck, 14 Dec. 1815, aged 62; Mr. George Howland, 16 May 1815, aged 72; Abigail E., wife of Seth Combs, 27 Sept. 1815, aged 36; Mary, wife of Joseph Denio, 5 Feb. 1818, aged 76; Joseph Denio, 23 Mar. 1820, aged 86.

Peter Mason on November 4, 1811 sold 24 rods of land to a company of individuals named as Simeon Fisk, Jeremiah Ballard, William Riddel, Josiah W. Cannon, Gilbert Stacy, James Gould, James Ewers, Samuel Stratton, Peter Mason, Joel Lyons, Josiah S. Clark, Ebenezer Chapin, John Barns, and John Bates, all of Gill. (Bk. 29, p. 580.) The purpose for which the land was intended was not specific in the deed, but it was the lower section of the present Center Cemetery. Mr. Mason died on February 7, 1813, and John Stratton, the legal owner who had removed to Chenango, Broome County, N.Y., on March 29, 1813 re-conveyed the plat to the same company of individuals, or their heirs. (Bk. 30, p. 444.) Like the other cemeteries, the ground had been already used for burial purposes previous to its purchase. The remainder of the cemetery as now laid out was obtained from the estate of Roswell Purple. The following are some of the oldest inscribed headstones in the cemetery: James Janes, son of Mr. John & Mrs. Jemima Bates, died Sept. 12, 1807, ag. 15 mos.; William Henry, son of Samuel & Livia Stratton, died July 11, 1810, ag. 2 y's and 7 m's.; Septima Riddel, Nat. Oct. 29, Ob. Nov. 4, 1810; Jacob Allen, son of Mr. John & Mrs. Jemima Bates, died 12 Aug. 1813, AE 12; Susanna, dau. of Susanna & Samuel Janes, died Nov. 29, 1811, AE 14 years; Peter Mason, son of Doct. Joel & Mrs. Eliza W. Lyons, died 3 July 1811, AE 2; Gilbert Stacy Esq., died 23 Mar. 1813, AE 42; Mr. Eliphas Chapin, died 4 Aug. 1816, AE 25; Almira, dau. of Mr. John & Mrs. Bathsheba A. McHard, died 10 Sept. 1816, ag. 10 ds.

Chapter 21

TAVERNS, EARLY MILLS, AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The first tavern-keeper in the Gill section of Greenfield was George Howland who was granted an inn-keeper's license in 1764, soon after he had completed the familiar "Old Red House" in Riverside. For many years thereafter, the Howlands kept public house for the convenience of the boatmen traveling the river. According to Hampshire County Court records, Benjamin Hosley was licensed as "an inn-keeper in his house" in 1783, and Asahel Webster is supposed to have kept a tavern at the mouth of Woodward's Brook at an early date. There probably were others who afforded hospitality to transients before the town was incorporated.

When David Squires built his dwellinghouse at the Center it was equipped with a barroom, and he became the first tavern-keeper at the Center, a tavern being a room or building in which liquor was sold. A tavern that in addition to the sale of liquor also offered convenience and entertainment for the traveling public was considered to be an inn, though the proprietor's license termed him a tavern-keeper because he sold intoxicants. The earliest of the Gill inns was that of Ebenezer Field, Jr., located in West Northfield when that part of Northfield was annexed to Gill. It contained a ballroom for the accommodation of assemblies, and the concluding festivities incident to the installations of the first ministers were held there.

A list of tavern-keepers licensed in 1803 named George Howland, Ebenezer Field, and James Gould, who was David Squires's successor.

In 1813 Asahel Wrisley sold his homestead on the Bernardston Road above the Center to his son-in-law, John Chase, who enlarged the house and converted it into an inn, and it became one of the regular stops for the stagecoaches. There was a commodious barroom adjoining the entrance, and a spacious ballroom upstairs. Beautiful handmade mouldings and paneling ornamented the large rooms, each with its fireplace. The Chase property in 1827 passed to Jeremiah Deane, and in 1869 to Abel Thornton, and then to his son, John. The old inn was destroyed by fire on April 12, 1935.

Benjamin Jacobs built the first inn at the Center in 1814 on the site where the earliest schoolhouse had stood, and a long line of tavern-keep-

ers followed Mr. Jacobs: Otis Gunn, Gideon L. Sprague, Alfred Alvord, a "Mr. Morse" in 1825, and John Phelps, father and son. Here, in stage-coach days, the mail was eagerly awaited and hurried to the little post office where it was sorted and delivered to proper parties.

A second tavern was next added to the common by Benjamin Brainard, the lawyer, located in what is now the frontage of the Center Cemetery. It also contained a hall on the second floor, and during the years that it was occupied by Roswell Purple, town meetings and other gatherings were held in it before the Town Hall was erected in 1867. Some years later it was sold at auction to Timothy E. Stoughton and torn down.

The tavern that stood at the turn of the road beyond the northwestern slope on which the Methodist Church is located, later widely known as the Arms's Tavern, was built by Smith Hodges about 1820. It contained a dance hall 80 feet long, reached by a winding stairway. The building was destroyed by fire on August 13, 1915.

Isaac Chenery, the storekeeper, added the last of the taverns to the common when he built a small structure in the rear of his dwellinghouse in 1833. The little building was outfitted as a barroom, and Mr. Chenery was thereafter taxed by the assessors for a house and a tavern, in addition to his store.

When Solomon Caswell became lock-tender on the canal along the Gill shore at the mouth of Millers River, he erected a tavern for the accommodation of boatmen. Nearly opposite on the Montague shore stood the historic old Durkee Tavern, a regular stop on the stage route from Springfield to Brattleboro. Just above it was the George Lewis homestead, recently called "Cabot Lodge," once the scene of elaborate wedding festivities when Mary Lewis and Jerome Hallett were married. Across Millers River on the Erving hillside was the farmhouse of Joseph Brown, whose most prized possession was the tall clock that had ticked away the hours for the workmen when the first dam was being built by his great-grandfather, Captain Elisha Mack.

The Caswell Tavern went up in smoke some two years after it was built, and it was not replaced.

The first mill built within the limits of the Town of Gill was a gristmill erected by Ithamar Allen about 1775. This mill was located on Woodward's Brook at Gill Center, a few rods above the present road to Bernardston. The basin of the old mill-pond still provides a bathing place in summer for the village children.

The Janes's sawmill, near the mouth of Woodward's Brook, was in operation as early as 1794. In that year it was voted to establish a pent road to the mill yard from the Connecticut River through Asahel Web-



The Old Red House in Riverside, early 1900's. The first tavern in Gill.

ster's land. Mr. Janes also operated a gristmill on the same stream at a point higher up. In later years an addition was built to the sawmill and equipped as a factory for the manufacture of wooden buckets, some 40,000 of these pails being turned out per year. Competition with larger manufacturers, however, closed the "pail factory" many years ago.

David Wrisley, 2nd, at an early date operated a sawmill at the end of Mill Lane, so-called for that reason. The property was sold by his son, Obed, to Smith Hodges on February 17, 1821. (Bk. 46, p. 303.) John Arms, who later became the owner, after enlarging the mill-pond and making other improvements, operated the mill for many years, and 75,000 or more feet of lumber was the average output for a season.

A tannery was in operation at the Center before 1815 on Beaver

Brook in the rear of the brick schoolhouse, and conducted for a lifetime by Samuel Stratton, a native of Athol, who came to Gill from Guilford, Vt., and who thereafter was called "Samuel Stratton, 2nd" or "Tanner Sam" to distinguish him from the native resident by the same name, known locally as "River Sam."

Before the temperance movement gained headway, there were a number of distilleries scattered throughout the town, three of them being located near the Center. Strong drink in those days was not frowned upon even by the clergy, and the story is told that a visiting minister who occupied the pulpit of the Gill Church one Sunday did not consider it inappropriate to announce that his son, a storekeeper in a neighboring town, had just added a hogshead of Jamaica rum to his stock in trade.

A small cotton-batting factory, producing about 150 pounds daily, was at one time operated by E. A. Bates. Elijah Seaver conducted a hatter's business in the basement of his house on the west side of the road part way down the hill east of the Clapp farm. A few lilac bushes still mark the spot where stood the "hat shop," as the house was commonly referred to at the time. At the foot of the hill, Jonathan Park had a "gunsmith's shop."

There were also saddlers, coopers, and tailors, and dressers of cloth, who had shops, and a succession of many blacksmiths, from David Squires, the first smith, Walter Brown, Enoch Hale, and George Bates, who for a lifetime operated a smithy on Beaver Brook by the Stratton tannery, to Herbert Hastings, the last representative in the town of a once valued profession.

A gristmill and a sawmill were in use at an early date at the Gill ends of the dams across Fall River. In the last years of production by "the Old Stone Mill," a machine shop for its repair work was operated at the end of the upper dam.

A woodworking and wheelwright shop was maintained by several generations of the Clark family at the foot of Cascade Hill. Power to turn the machinery was furnished by water through a long penstock from a dam higher up on Cascade Brook. A blacksmith shop was also operated as an adjunct.

The construction of the dam across the Connecticut River by the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals provided the possibility of water power for mill purposes at the Gill end of the dam. David Squires, who had obtained title to all "the Common and Undivided Land" lying in the Town of Gill in 1797, sold about half an acre of it "att and adjoining the east end of the great Dam" to Hezekiah Clark of Montague on August 24, 1801. (Bk. 16, p. 550.) Mr. Clark had come to Montague

from Derby, Conn., and some four years earlier had bought an acre of land in the vicinity of Smead's Island from Moses Bardwell with the privilege of erecting a sawmill thereon. Evidently he bought the land in Gill for a like purpose, as three years later when he sold a half interest to Eleazer Derby, the deed of conveyance reads: "one half of a sawmill which is bounded as follows, viz: beginning at a walnut tree at the north-east corner, running three rods, nine links to a witch hazel tree, then to the river," (Bk. 19, p. 426.) The bounds mentioned hardly indicate at this day a definite location for the land in question, and did not subsequent deeds give more specific details, the site would remain a matter of considerable guesswork. Mr. Clark sold the other half of the property to Pierce Chase (Bk. 19, p. 445.) who conveyed it on August 17, 1804 to Hezekiah Clark, Jr. (Bk. 19, p. 525.) Oliver Wilkinson acquired Eleazer Derby's rights on September 9, 1805. (Bk. 21, p. 320.)

The possibility of developing considerable water power at this site was manifest to anyone interested in such a matter, and a company of men from the State of Connecticut who were looking for a mill site became favorably impressed with the advantages offered here where there not only was vast water power, but also the exceptional benefit of transportation for the finished product direct from the mill to the New York markets by way of the recently developed canal system. They probably intended to erect a woolen mill, but their intentions were not disclosed. However, they did attempt to obtain possession of the mill property, and bought out Hezekiah Clark, Jr., on April 20, 1806. (Bk. 22, p. 404.) They were unable, however, to buy out Mr. Wilkinson. Their project consequently was abandoned, and Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck acquired their rights.

After operating the mill together for some seven years, Wilkinson and Shattuck sold out to Ephraim Upham and Jabez F. Bissell on March 3, 1813. (Bk. 34, p. 61-2.) The new partnership continued for sixteen years and then Mr. Bissell became the sole owner. Mr. Upham, who had removed to Rowe, deeded his half to Mr. Bissell on January 25, 1829. (Bk. 68, p. 313.) For a quarter of a century the mill had been owned at halves, and now for the first time since its original possession by Hezekiah Clark, Sr., the whole title was held by one man.

Within two years, Mr. Bissell removed to Dummerston, Vt., and the mill property was sold to Albert Slate (Bk. 77, p. 42.) from whom Edward Rice bought it on August 25, 1835. (Bk. 93, p. 112.) Mr. Rice ran the mill little more than a year when financial difficulties overtook him and a mortgage was given to Peleg Adams on November 10, 1836. (Bk. 96, p. 313.) Fourteen months later the mortgage was foreclosed and the property was deeded to Abraham Barnes, the highest bidder at a sheriff's sale on Janu-

ary 27, 1838. (Bk. 120, p. 25.) Mr. Barnes died the following September, and the mill was sold by his heirs on October 3, 1840 to Cornelius Allen (Bk. 111, p. 164.) who nine years later made it over to his son, Joseph P. Allen. (Bk. 156, p. 6.)

The Allens were the last to operate the mill, as the freshet of 1856 carried away part of the dam and removed the further possibility of water power, because the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canal had no intention of rebuilding the dam. The property, however, still had some value; a dwelling house was located on it. John Dunn, who was in the employ of Timothy M. Stoughton for many years, bought the land and buildings on March 15, 1856. (Bk. 199, p. 203) (Bk. 201, p. 366.) Twelve years later on March 19, 1868, Mr. Stoughton took over the property (Bk. 369, p. 266.), and it became merged in the adjoining tracts owned by him that were subsequently conveyed to Holmes, Wood & Perry, and in time became a part of the holdings of their successor, the Turners Falls Lumber Company.

The site of the original mill was about halfway between the loading platform now used by the power company and the gatehouse at the end of the present dam.



*Sawmill on Unadilla Brook, Gristmill Road, early 1900's.
In earlier times, a pail shop operated here.*



Turners Falls Lumber Company and Kindling Wood Factory, Riverside, about 1888.

Chapter 22

BRIDGES

FALL RIVER BRIDGES

The Greenfield Town Warrant dated May 11, 1789 contained an article "to see if they will build a bridge over Fall river between the Mills lately owned by Elisha Mack." This appears to have been the earliest date at which the town gave attention to the need of a bridge at the present location of the upper Factory Hollow Bridge. Previous to this time the river had been crossed by fording the upper end of the mill-pond at the foot of Cascade Hill. A bridge at a location a short distance below was already in use, but no records seem to disclose just what kind of a bridge it was, or when it was first constructed. In April 1796 the Town of Gill appointed Moses Bascom, Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck, and Lieutenant Howland a committee to confer with a Greenfield committee on "having one bridge near the mouth of Fall river." The plan was to build a road on the east side of Fall River along the foot of Rocky Hill, whereby one bridge would be eliminated. When both bridges were swept away in the 1797 spring freshet, the proposed plan was again brought forward and given more serious attention. However, relief from the maintenance of two bridges, by doing away with one, was decided to be impracticable, and both of them were rebuilt in 1797, the Gill committee consisting of Bela Orcutt, Lieutenant Shattuck, and Lieutenant Howland for the lower bridge, and Moses Bascom, Jeremiah Ballard, and Philip Ballard for the upper one. In the following year, 1798, by joint petition to the General Court, an act was passed directing the Town of Greenfield to maintain forever the upper bridge, and the Town of Gill, the lower one. In 1807 both bridges were again lost in a spring freshet and the Town of Greenfield appointed a committee on April 6, 1807 to rebuild "the bridge over Fall river at Chase's Mills or contract with the Town of Gill to join with them in making a road so as to make two bridges unnecessary." The project of a roadway on the east side of Fall River between the sites of the two bridges had evidently not been completely abandoned. The Town of Gill likewise appointed a committee to rebuild the lower bridge, and the following contract was made for its construction:

Dec'r 11th 1807

We the subscribers a committee appointed by the Town of Gill to

build a Bridge across fall river do in the capacity of the committee aforesaid promise to pay Andrew Adams or order one hundred and twenty five Dollars by the first day of November next in cash or Grain pork or flax for building said Bridge the price of said grain pork & flax to be regulated by the price courant in Greenfield.

Moses Bascom
Reuben Shattuck
Jonathan J. Hosley
Committe

In 1902, almost one-hundred years later, the wooden bridge at this location was replaced by a steel structure, high water during the intervening years having carried away too many bridges to enumerate. The usefulness of this lower bridge over Fall River ended in 1932 when the French King Highway was opened, and the structural steel was sold by the town and the bridge removed a few years later.



*Fall River Bridge at Factory Hollow, around 1900.
Old Stone Mill (Leonard Woolen Mill) in background.*

RED SUSPENSION BRIDGE

On March 6, 1792, David Sexton of Deerfield, David Smead of Greenfield, Lyman Taft and Elisha Mack of Montague, and others were incorporated for the purpose of erecting a toll bridge over the Connecticut River "at a place called the Great Falls" between Montague and Greenfield, the bridge to be in two sections with the island as the connecting link.

Elisha Mack, a native of Connecticut who had been a captain of a New Hampshire company in the Revolutionary War, was then living in Montague. Captain Mack was a carpenter by trade and possessed a natural knack for construction that also required engineering ability. He probably had devised plans for building the contemplated bridge, and the company was formed to back his enterprise.

It happened, however, that in the preceding week another company had been incorporated that proposed to open up the Connecticut River to navigation by the construction of a system of dams and canals. Thereby a situation with possibilities unanticipated by Captain Mack and his associates was created, and the bridge project was held in abeyance awaiting the outcome of the navigation developments. Instead of building a bridge, Captain Mack was soon busily engaged in achieving the first dams built by The Proprietors of the Locks and Canals. On the completion of the necessary dams and canals in 1800, traffic on the river by raft and barge began in earnest, and further developments by the Proprietors within the next few years that opened up the river northward gave added volume to the facilities of travel by water.

In the hustle and bustle of this new line of activity on the river, the plans for the erection of the bridge between Montague and Gill (then Greenfield) were soon forgotten. The projected artery of travel for traffic along the river was now replaced by the river itself. Travel between the two towns was accommodated by a ferry, a fitting and appropriate part of "the boating days," and the ferry was destined to remain in use long after the last canal-boat had vanished.

With the coming of the railroads, river navigation dwindled and finally ceased altogether. During the decade previous to 1865 the property of the Proprietors was neglected, its dams carried off by flood waters, and its locks and canals unused and abandoned.

The rights of the inactive Proprietors was purchased in 1866 by Colonel Alvah Crocker, of Fitchburg, and his associates. They proposed to develop a water system as power to operate mills and factories, and laid plans for a future industrial city. The projected city was named "Turners Falls" from its proximity to Turner's Falls, as Great Falls had been renamed in commemoration of Captain William Turner's exploit.

The city that was to grow up according to their expectations was laid out with meticulous detail in 1868 by Colonel Crocker's brother, William P. Crocker, an experienced civil engineer. His plan provided for wide streets and avenues, canals at three separate levels with adjoining mill sites, railway lines, and terminals, and a bridge over the Connecticut at the location planned for it in 1792.

The new company, Turners Falls Company, sold its first water rights in 1867 to Nathaniel A. Holmes for the operation of a sawmill and a gristmill. These rights were for water power on the Gill side of the river, with the purchaser's understanding that his mills were to have an outlet to the Montague side of the river over a bridge to be constructed at that point. Plans for the projected developments drawn by Mr. Crocker and printed in 1868 showed such a bridge.

Mr. John Russell, who had been a successful manufacturer of cutlery in Greenfield for many years, incorporated his business in this same year, 1868, as the "John Russell Manufacturing Company." Largely due to Mr. Alvah Crocker's personal efforts and stock subscriptions, Mr. Russell was induced to remove his business to Turners Falls, and preparation for the construction of a plant there to accommodate the cutlery works were at once begun. In anticipation of this removal, Mr. Russell in 1868 headed a petition to the County Commissioners for a road and bridge "Somewhere below the mouth of Fall river" to afford a more direct connection between the towns of Greenfield and Montague. The commissioners viewed the premises on October 13, 1868 and announced a decision that public necessity and convenience required such a road and bridge. The new roadway was to branch from the Greenfield and Factory Hollow Road near the High Street Cemetery, and follow the eastern slope of Rocky Mountain to a point in line with Fifth Street on the Turners Falls survey, where a bridge would be constructed.

The need of a bridge into Turners Falls was self-evident, but one located at the site chosen would be of small convenience to Mr. Holmes in the marketing of his output. Neither could it replace a ferry which travel had kept in operation above the falls for more than one-hundred years. Mr. Holmes had for his associates David A. Wood and Amos E. Perry. Holmes, Wood & Perry soon became large producers of lumber, the greater part of their output being taken up by the developments at Turners Falls, where delivery had to be made by ferry during the months that ferrying was possible. For short periods during the winter months, loaded teams could sometimes cross on the ice. When the ice was unsafe and while spring freshets were raging, the only entrance to Turners Falls was by way of Factory Hollow, Greenfield, Cheapside, and through the Montague City toll bridge.

"Holmes, Wood & Co., who have their saw-mill on the Gill side of the river, supply much of the lumber and timber to the new city. Owing to the ice in the Winter and the freshets in the Spring, they have been obliged to team their lumber around a distance of nine and a half miles, which brings them within sight and almost a stone's throw from their starting point. It takes nineteen miles of travel for the trip."

(Gazette & Courier, April 25, 1870.)

When Mr. Holmes sought relief from the imposition of these conditions, and began to press for the completion of the promised bridge, he found to his surprise that "circumstances had altered the case of the bridge business." The Turners Falls Company no longer had any intention of promoting a bridge between Montague and Gill, having decided that such a connection would prove detrimental to the progress and best interests of Turners Falls.

The policies of the hardheaded founders of the projected city were concerned more with the expediencies of the day than with the probable benefits of the future. Having large land investments of their own, they naturally did not propose to open up the other side of the river as a suburb to which workmen employed in the numerous mills might retire when labor for the day was ended.

The Turners Falls Company had a legitimate right to protect its own interests in whatever way it thought proper, and a similar privilege belonged to those located on the Gill side of the river, whose situation had in no way been altered.

The first move toward the procurement of a bridge between the towns of Gill and Montague was in 1870 when Holmes, Wood & Perry, together with certain associates headed by Timothy M. Stoughton, sought incorporation for the construction of a toll bridge. With the erection of a free bridge between Greenfield and Montague in prospect, another free bridge at that time was undoubtedly thought out of the question.

The Acts of 1870, Chapter 355, approved June 13, sets forth the incorporation of this company:

Section 1. Timothy M. Stoughton, Nathaniel Holmes, David A. Wood, Amos E. Perry, Leonard Barton, Roswell Field, Silas N. Brooks, Lyman Barton, Peleg Adams, Ezra Purple, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of the Turners Falls Bridge Company, with all the privileges, and subject to all the liabilities and restrictions set forth in all general laws relative to such corporations.

Section 2. The said Corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to construct a bridge over the Connecticut River between the dam of the Turners Falls Company and the mouth of Fall River.

Sections 3-11. (Capital stock, bridge specifications, and toll charges.)

Section 12. This act shall not take effect until the County Commissioners of Franklin County shall determine that the construction of this bridge will in no way interfere with the laying out and construction of a free bridge petitioned for by John Russell and others, which petition is now pending before said Commissioners.

Up to this time, nothing definite had been done by the County Commissioners in regard to building the road and free bridge from Greenfield although the John Russell Manufacturing Company was about ready to transfer its business to the new plant in Turners Falls. The matter had been touched upon at the Commissioners' meeting in April 1870, but the deliberate Commissioners of that day were in no hurry, and actual work on construction of the bridge did not start until November 1871, some eighteen months afterward.

The Turners Falls Company had little reason to oppose the building of this bridge for the convenience of its best customer. There seems, however, to have been an undercurrent of displeasure, and a desire to give the impression that the bridge was unavoidably accepted as something imposed by Greenfield influencers; a bit of retaliation, possibly, for the hard bargain Mr. Russell had driven.

For whatever reason it may have been, none of the interested parties appears to have taken any steps to provide an entrance into Turners Falls. When the bridge was completed in May 1872, the citizens of Greenfield could travel over the new road and continue to the Montague end of the bridge, and then turn about and have a nice ride back to the shire town.

"The free bridge across the Connecticut at Turners Falls is completed, but there is no getting off on the Montague side, as through some neglect somewhere the approaches to the bridge in Montague have not been built."

(Gazette & Courier, May 27, 1872.)

However, the dereliction was remedied before the next issue of the paper was published, but the work was done surreptitiously and accomplished under circumstances that permitted the Turners Falls correspondent of the Greenfield paper to indulge in a bit of satire:

"Building the temporary road down to the suspension bridge was

one of those lawless, unauthorized undertakings that are sometimes justifiable. No one knows who built it (?) Even the workmen did not know who paid them for doing the job. The road runs across the land of the Turners Falls Co., but the officers of the company were away at the time and did not have a chance to oppose the trespass upon their possessions."

(Gazette & Courier, June 10, 1872.)

The correspondent concluded with the comforting remark that "it is such a public convenience there is not likely to be any trouble." Whereupon, the reader of that day was undoubtedly completely relieved of all anxiety lest this "convenient" adjunct to the bridge should be done away with and the Montague side left permanently without an approach.

In the meantime, the Turners Falls Company had sold the mill site across Avenue A from the Clark & Chapman Machine Company to the Turners Falls Pulp Company, whose subsidiary, the Montague Paper Company, was also a part of the premises.

"The Montague Paper Company is a firm recently organized," stated the President of the Turners Falls Company in the Company's printed report, June 13, 1871. It is part and parcel of the Turners Falls Pulp Company. They have no land of the Turners Falls Company, but will locate upon the Pulp Co.'s land."

About this time the incorporators of the Turners Falls Bridge Company for the erection of a toll bridge between Montague and Gill abandoned their project, due probably to their inability to raise the necessary stock subscriptions. The bridge problem, however, was not abandoned, and a petition dated April 15, 1872 was laid before the County Commissioners:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of the town of Gill, respectfully represent that the public convenience and necessity require the building of a bridge across the Connecticut River, with roads or approaches to the same, to connect Avenue A in the village of Turners Falls with the County Road in Gill, near the house of Nathaniel Holmes,"

This was the beginning of a contest that lasted for six years, during which there were numerous hearings before the County Commissioners, visits by the Commissioners and by Legislative Committees to view sites for a bridge, and finally appeals to higher courts, amid an indulgence in considerable recriminatory accusation by both sides of the participants. In the following accounts of these proceedings, the reader is perplexed not only by the inadequacy of the County Commissioners, who squab-

bled among themselves, made decisions that came to naught or were reversed, and filed notices only to retract them, but also is filled with wonderment at some of the legal arguments advanced to block progress. The larger interests of the whole project appear to have been obscured by the opponents, who, for good reasons in view of their great expectations, sought to temporize, but who none the less were obstinate enough to be willing "to bite off their nose to spite their face" if matters came to a show down.

In due course of time the Commissioners arrived at a point where consideration was given to the petition dated April 15, 1872, and a hearing was set for February 11, 1873, at which hearing,

"Hon. R. N. Oakman offered a motion that the subject of the hearing be postponed for one year. The Chair ruled that as they had met for a hearing, they had no power to adjourn without it.

"At the close of the hearing, the committee advised that their decision was that a bridge at this point was required by public necessity and convenience, and that unless something transpired to change matters, a meeting would be held Dec. 2, to locate same."

In concluding the foregoing report, the "Turners Falls Reporter" remarked, "No sane man can deny the wisdom of the decision, and we believe it will meet with general approbation."

Why the Commissioners delayed further action until the following December is a question that can be answered by conjecture alone. Possibly it was simply a manifestation of the board's customary disinclination to appear impetuous, but it postponed all action for almost another year.

When December arrived and the time appointed to locate the bridge was at hand, the matter was deferred for two weeks, until December 16th. A lengthy report of this meeting, including verbatim testimony, was printed in the "Franklin County Times" for December 19, 1873. Instead of confining the session to evidence as to the best location for the bridge, in accordance with its decision on February 11th, the Commission appears to have spent much time in listening to irrelevant remarks, and to have converted the occasion into a second hearing on the bridge question to ascertain if possibly the board had not been over indiscreet in adjudging that public necessity and convenience demanded a bridge.

The petition which the County Commissioners then had under consideration was headed by Mr. Timothy M. Stoughton of Gill, who also had been instrumental in the formation and incorporation of the Turners Falls Bridge Company. Mr. Stoughton had always been a staunch supporter of Mr. Holmes in his endeavors to obtain a bridge, although

openly accused of doing so purely for selfish reasons, because he possessed large real estate holdings on the Gill side of the river, an accusation likewise hurled at Mr. Leonard Barton. Mr. Stoughton frankly admitted that a bridge would in all probability increase land values in Riverside somewhat, but claimed that such a result would be the natural consequence of a step promoting progress, and was not a primary consideration in the matter. From the beginning, Mr. Stoughton had advocated a bridge as something necessary to the best interests of Turners Falls itself, believing that cooperation between the two communities would prove more advantageous to each than rivalry, and that Turners Falls would be borne to greater heights of prosperity on the shoulders of a growing village on the Gill side of the river.

The Turners Falls Company, however, had large tracts of land for residential areas as well as sites for many mills, and it was opposed to any development on the Gill side of the river before its own footings were securely established.

"In the future the Company might build on that side, then a bridge would be wanted. When there were two large manufacturing villages on both sides, then there should be a bridge." (Mr. Wendell T. Davis, Treasurer of Turners Falls Company.)

"When the proper time comes, I am ready for a bridge. Not yet. If I were where Mr. Holmes is, I should advocate the bridge, even if it was not for the public interest. I am like the rest, for my own prosperity." (Hon. Richard N. Oakman.)

"I don't believe Mr. Holmes is as selfish as that. He would not ask for the bridge if it were not a public necessity." (Mr. T. M. Stoughton.)

(Franklin County Times, December 19, 1873.)

Mr. Stoughton further said that the bridge was needed not only "to bring both sides together," but was needed also to give Turners Falls the benefits of markets to the north, and advocated the laying out of a road to connect the West Gill Road with the bridge, saying "The road could be changed by a short piece of new road, cut across to Simon Phillips and O. B. Green."

It is worthwhile noticing this suggestion made in 1873, because such a route has lately been given much attention as a probable development in the Massachusetts road program to connect traffic north and south with the Mohawk Trail. A survey for such a "cut-across" has already been made by the state. Should this road eventually be opened, Mr. Stoughton's vision of a bridge at the dam and a through route north and south will find fulfillment.

Not long after this, Mr. Stoughton became President of the Turners Falls Lumber Company, and the Company's urgent need for the bridge, combined with his own personal views on the subject, caused him from then on to assume leadership in prosecuting the advocacy of the bridge. When over three years later, the bridge matter was still an unsettled affair, the local weekly observed that:

"If the proposed bridge be built, and it then becomes a boon, T. M. Stoughton's name will pass down to posterity as that of a wonderfully persistent man. All thought of the bridge would have passed from remembrance, had he lost faith, some years ago." (Turners Falls Reporter, July 25, 1877.)

After listening for two days to testimony about matters that sometimes were persistent and sometimes were wholly irrelevant, the County Commissioners concluded their hearing on December 16, 1873 and announced that their decision was reserved until the first Wednesday in January 1874, on which date a complete reversal of their previous opinion was rendered on the grounds that there was no necessity for another bridge.

The "friends of the bridge" had no intention, however, of dropping the matter:

"A petition signed by A. W. Stevens of Turners Falls and others has been sent to the Legislature for an Act authorizing and requiring the County Commissioners to construct a bridge at Turners Falls between the mouth of Falls River and Barton's Cove on the Gill side, and the Montague Mill and the house of E. L. Goddard on the other. It is now stated that a suspension bridge 550 feet long can be built at the Ferry which will require no outlay for approaches and no land damages. The most influential opponents to the enterprise of building a bridge admit that it is only a question of time, and that at no distant day the public necessity will require its construction."

(Gazette & Courier, February 16, 1874.)

Mr. A. W. Stevens, who led the petitioners, was a dry-goods merchant in Turners Falls, with a store located in the Schuler block. For some reason, however, few patrons were attracted to Mr. Steven's display of goods, and it was not long before he retired to other fields of enterprise in the vicinity of Boston.

The hearing on this petition was held before a committee of the Legislature in Boston in March, and was attended by the full quota of "friends" and "opponents," who offered the arguments pro and con that already were beginning to have a familiar ring from frequent repe-

tition. Mr. Oakman, however, stepped out of his role as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Montague to appear as a representative of the Turners Falls Company and offered his reasons for the Company's opposition to a bridge at the dam:

"The Turners Falls Company had from the beginning admitted and declared that there must be an avenue over the river at some point, and put upon their first plans a proposed bridge where they thought was the most desirable place. They were willing to give one mill site for a bridge, but when through the influence of Greenfield the present bridge was located and built, they said they must not be asked to give another site within their territory for another bridge. Thereupon they sold the site for the proposed bridge to the Montague Paper Company."

(Turners Falls Reporter, March 25, 1874.)

It hardly seems admissible that level-headed and far-seeing business men with the best interests of the projected city in view, for no other reason than to save the small strip of land needed for an approach to the bridge, would have been willing to make a dead end out of the city's main thoroughfare, if, as Mr. Oakman testified, they believed a bridge was inevitable, and thought that a continuation of Avenue A was "the most desirable place" for its location. Mr. Oakman did not tell the whole story.

The lower suspension bridge was completed in May 1872, and if the Turners Falls Company said "they must not be asked to give another site for a bridge," they did not say so publicly, for at no previous hearing had the Turners Falls Company intimated the building of that bridge had in any way altered the attitude of the Company.

As Mr. Oakman stated, the Turners Falls Company had "sold the site for the proposed bridge to the Montague Paper Company," whose mill had recently been erected. Contrary to the original plan, the subsidiary was located not upon land of the parent concern, but upon the newly acquired property. In fact, the location occupied most of the space allotted to a continuation of Avenue A by way of the bridge to Gill as laid out on the original plans of the Turners Falls Company. Mr. Oakman evidently felt called upon to offer a plausible excuse for the Company's action, and gave the foregoing reason as the explanation and justification.

The advocates of the bridge, however, drew the logical conclusion that the Turners Falls Company had taken the step as one of its efforts to prevent the construction of a bridge at the dam, and that the mill was an obstruction purposely located to block completely any such project. If the Turners Falls Company chose to proceed contrary to what the

"friends of the bridge" and other outsiders believed to be for the best interests of the new city, that decision was the Turners Falls Company's affair entirely. The petition headed by Mr. Stevens, accordingly, sought a bridge between the limits of the Montague Paper Company's mill and the ferry.

The Legislative Committee reported favorably, and the Act was passed on June 2, 1874. (Chapter 289.) The matter again came back to the County Commissioners, who by the Act were authorized to proceed with the construction of a bridge "at or near Turner's Falls between the towns of Gill and Montague."

The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners at the time was Mr. Nelson Burrows of Gill. The fact that Gill was one of the towns directly concerned with the bridge matter disqualified Mr. Burrows from presiding at any meeting where that matter was considered. Mr. Burrows accordingly invited Special Commissioner D. L. Smith of Colrain to act in his place on such occasions, there having been in the meantime two Special Commissioners added to the regular board to act in matters concerning the bridge project. Mr. John M. Smith of Sunderland, the other County Commissioner at the time, assuming that Mr. Burrows would not appoint his own substitute, asked Mr. B. W. Fay, the other Special Commissioner, to fill the chair when bridge matters were under discussion. A clash was consequently precipitated between the two Commissioners, who, according to the "Reporter" for September 16, 1874, "met again on Saturday at Greenfield to consider the bridge matter, but it adjourned to Oct. 16. The matter has now become more or less a personal squabble."

However, a temporary adjustment, at least, appears to have been made at the adjourned meeting reported by the "Gazette & Courier" for October 19, 1874:

"The County Commissioners have granted the petition of A. W. Stevens of Turners Falls and others for a free bridge between Montague and Gill, which will probably be located just below the dam, though the board will not officially locate it until December, and the contracts for work will not be made before another spring. The new building of the Montague Paper Company will not prevent the construction of a bridge from the Montague shore, at or near the point first proposed, as there is a passage way of 27 feet between it and the shops of the Clark & Chapman Machine Co."

Early in December, Mr. Carlos Batchelder took his seat as a member of the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Smith and Mr. Batchelder could come to no agreement on the person to preside in Mr. Burrow's place, and a complete deadlock continued so far as matters pertaining to

the bridge question were concerned, "waiting for three Commissioners to settle their differences and act together," according to the "Gazette & Courier" for January 4, 1875.

If the attitude of the County Commissioners was induced wholly by the purported reasons made public, or if there were other underlying motives that influenced them, no trace of such undercurrents appeared above the surface. Whatever the causes may have been, action by the Commissioners relative to the bridge was effectively blocked.

With the indefinite continuation of such a condition in prospect, further recourse to legislative action seemed the only solution. Another bill was placed before the Legislature, and a committee appointed to view the premises and take evidence reported favorably. An Act (Chapter 193) was approved May 8, 1875, the first and second sections of which read as follows:

Section 1. The present commissioners for the County of Franklin—namely Nelson Burrows, John M. Smith and Carlos Batchelder—are hereby authorized and required as a board hereby constituted for that purpose, to proceed at once after the passage of this act, to lay out, construct, or cause to be constructed, a substantial, convenient and safe highway and bridge, with suitable approaches thereto, provided that the expense of the same shall not exceed the sum of forty-two thousand dollars, across the Connecticut River and Great Island, so-called, at Turner's Falls, between the towns of Gill and Montague in said county of Franklin, pursuant to the adjudication as to common convenience and necessity made by the commissioners of said county, the sixteenth day of October in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-four, on the petition of A. W. Stevens and others, for a highway and bridge at the place aforesaid. The said highway and bridge shall be constructed and completed within two years from the passage of this act.

Section 2. The Commissioners aforesaid are hereby authorized and directed to take and appropriate, if necessary, for the purpose of said highway and bridge, the private property of any person or persons or corporations, and upon taking the same shall upon due notice and hearing, estimate and award the damages to the owner or owners thereof.

The 17th of June 1875 marked the centennial of the battle of Bunker Hill, and the day was celebrated as a holiday throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. According to the "Gazette & Courier" the majority of the local people stayed quietly at home to enjoy a day of rest, while some followed the crowd to Boston where the principal ceremonies were held.

"The County Commissioners, however, spent the day at the falls, taking measurements and grades for the new bridge. To be in direct line with Avenue A, a small portion of buildings on one side or the other, and perhaps both, will have to be removed. We do not think the Clark & Chapman Company will claim heavy damages unless there is serious interference with their building and expensive machinery. On the other hand, the Montague Paper Company have built this portion of their mill since there was talk of locating a bridge here and since surveys were made expressly, the friends of the bridge claim, to defeat their plans. Whether this would have any weight in awarding damages remains to be seen."

(Gazette & Courier, June 21, 1875.)

Although the editor of the "Turners Falls Reporter" was a consistent supporter of the bridge project, and frequently had taken the opposition to task for various obstructions to impede or delay matters, Mr. Cecil T. Bagnall was quick to take up the cudgels if an outsider made any derogatory insinuations, and the statement in the "Gazette & Courier" concerning the placement of the Montague Paper Company's mill was denounced as a "slur and an insult."

The equanimity of those who made up the reporting for the "Gazette & Courier" was in no way disturbed, and in the following issue calmly called attention to the fact that it merely had stated "what the friends of the bridge claimed, and not any knowledge of its own." With complete absence of any apology, however, the "Gazette & Courier" not only made no retraction, but quite contrarily bolstered its position with the assertion that, to be perfectly frank:

"It has been generally understood in Turners Falls and elsewhere that the opponents of the bridge were instrumental in having the building of the Paper Mill so constructed as to defeat the enterprise."

(Gazette & Courier, July 5, 1875.)

By the latter part of August 1875, matters had progressed to the point where bids on construction of the bridge were solicited from prospective contractors.

"Plans for the proposed Turners Falls Bridge are now ready at the office of the Clerk of Courts, which have been drawn by E. A. Stratton, the engineer employed by the County Commissioners. The plans take about 20 feet from the east end of the Montague Paper Company, and keep clear of the Clark & Chapman Machine Shop."

(Gazette & Courier, August 26, 1875.)

When the Commissioners had granted the petition of A. W. Stevens and others at the hearing on October 16, 1874, it was made clear that the mill of the Montague Paper Company could be bypassed through a 27-foot space between it and the Clark & Chapman Machine Shop. The Commissioners, however, having been made a Special Bridge Commission, and commanded to build the bridge, proceeded to disregard the main factor of their former approval, and decided upon an approach requiring the removal of a section of the Montague Paper Company's mill.

As soon as the plans for the proposed bridge were made public, the mill owners naturally objected, and:

"A prayer for an injunction was filed by the Montague Paper Company at the Clerk of Court's Office on Sept. 6."

(Gazette & Courier, September 9, 1875.)

This was a step that surely could not have been unanticipated by the County Commissioners.

"The bridge commissioners met Sept. 23 to hear claims of damage in consequence of the new free bridge laid out by them, but only a partial hearing was held, with adjournment to Oct. 7."

(Turners Falls Reporter, September 29, 1875.)

About the first of October, the Commissioners opened sixteen bids on the proposed bridge, but:

"reached no decision, and will await the results of the petition for injunction."

(Gazette & Courier, October 4, 1875.)

Although the Commissioners had advertised for bids and had held meetings to determine the incident damage claims, they suddenly disclaimed all intention of having definitely located the bridge, and in reply to the injunctive petition of the Montague Paper Company, stated that:

"The notice filed that they had located the bridge was published through an inadvertence; that they have not filed such a location and when they do locate the bridge, they don't intend to encroach on any property of the Montague Paper Company. They therefore ask that the petition be dismissed."

(Turners Falls Reporter, December 1, 1875.)

As a comment on this, the "Reporter" remarked: "The plea of inadvertence is, to say the least, peculiar, inasmuch as they held a meeting to determine the amount of damages incident to the location."

The decision of the Supreme Court, upholding the petition for in-

junction, ended all expectation of locating a bridge at the Great Island site. An amendment, therefore, was made to the Act of 1875. (Acts of 1877, Chap. 140.)

“Section 1. The Commissioners named in Section one of chapter one hundred and ninety-three of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-five may after due notice to and hearing all parties interested, may if in their judgment the public necessity and convenience require, without regard to the restrictions as to location contained in said act, but between such points in the town of Gill and such points in the town of Montague as they shall deem best, relocate and construct upon such relocation, the highway and bridge in said act mentioned.”

(Approved April 20, 1877.)

This Act was so worded, however, as to relieve the Commissioners entirely of all requirement to build the bridge, which had been the essence of the previous Act. Again “public necessity and convenience” became the pivotal and conditional grounds for action. The Commissioners accordingly gave notice of a hearing to be held on July 7th, on which day various sites were again viewed, and an adjournment was made until the 24th when the matter of convenience and necessity would be given attention.

The “Turners Falls Reporter” printed a long account of what took place at this adjourned meeting, at which Judge Conant of Greenfield who appears to have been the chief legal adviser to the “friends of the bridge” outlined the various steps that it had been necessary to take in their behalf.

The 1872 petition was invalidated because the Commissioners had power only to lay roads, not build bridges, and the Act of 1874 was therefore passed to give the Commissioners the required authority. This lack of authority seemingly had not deterred them from erecting the lower suspension bridge. It was then brought forth that the Commissioners could apportion the costs of construction only between the two interested towns, and the Town of Gill consequently, due to the fact that Great Island had been ceded to it, would have to erect the span from the Island to the Gill shore, and in addition would be liable for one-half the costs of the span from the Island to the Montague side. The Act of 1875 was then passed to correct this unfair division of expense, and the Commissioners were empowered to apportion the costs among the several towns in the county that would share the benefits; and in order to end the matter, the Commissioners were ordered to proceed at once to build a bridge at the Great Island site, in accordance with their decision previous-

ly rendered. The Commissioners were halted, however, by an injunctive decree supported by the Supreme Court. The Act of 1877, under which the Commissioners were then proceeding, was passed amending the previous Act to permit the Commissioners to build a bridge at some other suitable location.

The adjourned meeting before the County Commissioners on July 24th was readjourned until July 30th, and the "Gazette & Courier" printed a lengthy account of the proceedings. The lawyers for the petitioners presented the usual arguments in favor of the bridge, while the counsel for the opponents stated:

"That it was plainly a private speculation to benefit the lumber company, T. M. Stoughton, and others who owned land in Riverside; that the people of Gill as a whole did not want a bridge, nor those of Montague, Northfield or Bernardston (enough to pay their share of its cost) and that they knew what was for their own good as well as the petitioners; that the great corporations who made Turners Falls did not want a bridge, and that those who want it, at Turners Falls, were chiefly day laborers; that the proposed road from Factory Hollow, along the side hill 3826 feet to the suspension bridge, all of which is in the town of Greenfield, would give Riverside ample and sufficient accommodation, at an increased distance of only about 1700 feet to the depot; that the zeal of Greenfield to have a bridge was born of fear of having to build this road; that the ice formed the best of bridges for about one third of the year, and that the ferry was one of the best and safest on the river, and that the danger was all nonsense.

"The hearing occupied three days and fifty-four witnesses were examined. Decision is reserved and will be given in the course of two weeks."

(Gazette & Courier, August 6, 1877.)

"The bridge project has been knocked in the head once more. The special bridge commissioners, after chewing the cud of reflection on the evidence taken a month or so ago, finally came to the conclusion, in evasion of the real question, on Saturday, 'that public necessity did not require relocation of the bridge.' At the present location it is impossible to build, so the decision was intended to kill the bridge, while the commissioners so worded their death warrant as to make the people favoring the project feel as though the illustrious tripartite tribunal had, like the Irishman, 'Killed the poor calf to save its life.' "

(Turners Falls Reporter, September 12, 1877.)

Possibly the Commissioners were enjoying the satisfaction of taking a retaliatory swipe at those advocating the bridge for ever having resorted to officious legislative action, as early in the next year they gave notice of a further hearing to be held on February 19, 1878, at which time their previous adverse attitude became suddenly quite conciliatory.

“There was another hearing before the Turners Falls Bridge Commissioners on Tuesday Judge Conant, Peleg Adams, S. F. Mayo, Nathaniel Holmes and others advocated the dam as the proper location. T. M. Stoughton would not object to having it at the ferry. The Commissioners decided in favor of the ferry location, and in case the legal points against their action are not sustained, will proceed to construct the bridge.”

(Gazette & Courier, February 25, 1878.)

“Even the men who once wanted a bridge at the dam, or none, now asked the commissioners to build a good, honest bridge at the ferry It is our opinion that if the petitioners had shown so much good sense on former occasions, a bridge would have been built years ago. The commissioners will no doubt now proceed to relocate it at the ferry at once.”

(Turners Falls Reporter, February 20, 1878.)

Mr. Bagnall's generalities and offhand conclusions, printed in the “Turners Falls Reporter” on the day following the hearing, were undoubtedly written to fill up space in the hurry of going to press, or were not based on first-hand information. The “Gazette & Courier” (as quoted) did not indicate any such changed attitude among the petitioners. The good sense that should have been shown on former occasions and have adjusted affairs years ago should more rightfully have been displayed by the County Commissioners, who teetered indecisively over the question of public necessity and convenience; and who, although at times granting a petition, postponed its fulfillment by every possible means, and who, when instructed as a Special Bridge Commission to build a bridge at the island site, made no attempt to devise a route that would make its building possible, but on the contrary approved plans that would incur damages exceeding the specified limits of cost, even had it not brought about the obvious result of an injunction which the Supreme Court sustained for that same reason. An indulgence in all of which the County Commissioners undoubtedly considered themselves wholly justified as servants of the towns of the county, none of which towns would subscribe by vote to any definite support of the bridge petitions.

The closing act of the long drama was finally reached when a contract was signed in the latter part of April 1878 for a 550-foot single-span suspension bridge 20 feet above low water level. The total cost of the superstructure with abutments and anchorages summed up to approximately the same figure as the estimated cost of the long opposed bridge at the island site. This fact, when made known, according to the "Turners Falls Reporter" of May 8th, "created considerable excitement." It even presented a plausible ground to thwart the undertaking again, and the old dagger of injunction was unsheathed in an attempt to prevent the County Treasurer from paying out the sum.

However, work on the foundation was actually started in the middle of July 1878, and the completed structure was opened to general traffic the last week in the following December.

A bridge between Montague and Gill was at last brought to accomplishment, though it had been shunted from the original and logical site to one considered negligibly detrimental to the interests of Turners Falls. The complacency of those who constituted the successful opposition, however, would probably have been considerably perturbed could they have looked forward exactly sixty years and foreseen the razing of the mill at the dead end of their main street, and the erection of a million-dollar bridge at the location so deviously and so obstinately opposed.

When the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge was completed in September 1938, the Red Suspension Bridge was closed to all traffic except pedestrians and bicyclists, and four years later, as a measure in World War II salvage contribution, was sold to Macker and Whitney, wreckers, of Oxford, for \$2,000. Demolition was started early in September 1942.

FRENCH KING BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY

The special program of public works for the relief of unemployment approved by Governor Joseph B. Ely included a cutoff on Route 2, the Mohawk Trail, beginning just east of the Erving side of Millers Falls, crossing the Connecticut River into Gill near the mouth of the Millers River, and on through Riverside and Factory Hollow until it joined Route 2 near the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield.

The contract for the construction of the section of this 40-foot wide highway through Gill to the Greenfield end was awarded August 18, 1931 to the Kelleher Corporation of Turners Falls for \$356,234 and work was begun in the following week. From Factory Hollow eastward, the highway after crossing Fall River by way of a relocated bridge continued over the old Pisgah Road, with due allowance for width and removal of curves, until the fork to the River Road was reached, where an en-



Red Suspension Bridge, early 1900's.

tirely new roadbed was to be built across the sandy flat to the Connecticut River.

At that point, just above the location of the old boatman's tavern kept by Sol Caswell when he was lock-tender while the canal around Millers falls was in operation, a bridge 783 feet long to span the Connecticut River was necessary. The contract for such a bridge of steel construction to cost \$256,910 was awarded to the McClintock-Marshall Corporation of Bethlehem, Pa., a concern that had just completed the George Washington Bridge over the Hudson River at New York.

The total cost of the bridge, including abutments erected by Simpson Brothers of Boston, was approximately \$375,000, and the structure is described as "a deck spandrel, braced arch, with supported cantilever ends." It stands 139 feet above normal water level, has a 40-foot roadway with a 5-foot sidewalk, 2,606 tons of steel were used in its construction, and the bridge floor weighs 2,628 tons. Work on the bridge proper was begun in April 1932, and the spans flung from either side were joined together in July.

The bridge was dedicated and opened to traffic, with the usual ceremonies incident to such occasions on September 10, 1932. Some 15,000 people viewed the parade and listened to speeches by Governor Ely, Commissioner of Public Works, Frank E. Lyman, and others. The historical address was delivered by John A. Taggart of Millers Falls.

Due to its location just below French King Rock, the new bridge was given the name of "French King Bridge," and the cutoff on Route 2 has correspondingly become known as the "French King Highway."

The French King Bridge was awarded first prize by the American Institute of Steel Construction as the most beautiful bridge built in North America during the year 1932 among bridges costing from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, and a bronze plaque as evidence was placed upon the bridge by the Institute.

TURNERS FALLS-GILL BRIDGE

The Red Suspension Bridge between Gill and Montague withstood the wear and tear of traffic for forty years, when in 1918 the highway engineers noted signs of weakness, and the suspension cables were reinforced. Although this remedied the situation temporarily, it did not wholly restore the original load capacity, and about 1930 a limit was placed on the amount of weight a carrier was permitted to transport.

It happened that the White Suspension Bridge between Montague and Greenfield at this time was also judged to be unsafe, and in 1933 the situation became so critical that the Montague selectmen proposed to the Department of Public Works that a bridge be built near the dam to re-



French King Bridge, in the 1930's.

place the two bridges then in use, each of which was considered unsound. The completion of the French King Highway on the Gill side of the river had given an entirely new aspect to the bridge matter, and a bridge at the approximate site of the one on the original plan of Turners Falls was now as strongly advocated as it had been strongly opposed at the time the Red Suspension Bridge was agitated. Aside from the merit that it would probably in time replace two bridges, the projected new bridge would furnish Turners Falls with a far more attractive approach. The location of the Red Suspension Bridge had always been a disadvantage to Turners Falls itself.

No further developments took place, however, until 1936. The memorable flood in the month of March practically isolated Turners Falls. The White Suspension Bridge was believed to have been damaged beyond ordinary repair, while the Red Suspension Bridge was so strained that guards were stationed to enforce traffic regulations. Turners Falls obviously was confronted with a serious problem.

Previous to that time, provision for the funds necessary for construction of the bridge had been the main obstacle to its approval by the Department of Public Works. The Federal Government, under the Cartwright Bill, at last had an appropriation for the building of bridges in the states devastated by the flood, and from those funds the towns of Gill and Montague finally received an adequate allotment.

On May 19, 1937 Daniel O'Connell & Sons of Holyoke were given the contract for a bridge with a roadway 30 feet wide and a sidewalk 5-1/2 feet wide, over five piers, the central pier being located on Great Island, and the over-all length equaling approximately 2,200 feet and the height 96 feet. Work was started on May 24, 1937, and the completed bridge was dedicated on September 10, 1938. Mrs. Lyman Hale represented the Town of Gill at the exercises, and read an historical paper prepared for the occasion.

The bridge is known as the "Turners Falls-Gill Bridge," and the total cost of its construction approximated \$1,000,000. It is the longest bridge in Massachusetts.

It stands, a lasting monument to those who went down to defeat against great odds when the ferry became unequal to the demands of traffic, and the Red Suspension Bridge was located at the ferry site. It is the final vindication of the sound judgment of "the friends of the bridge" in contending for the site originally selected.



Turners Falls-Gill Bridge (Gill End).

"Here, where the fisher stood and speared his prey;
Here, where the Indian happy in the wild,
Thanked the Great Spirit for this paradise,
Shall stretch the broad highways from shore to shore,
And din of traffic and its roar shall drown
The thunder of the falling flood below."

Josiah D. Canning

Delivered at exercises commemorating
the 200th anniversary of "The Falls
Fight," 1876.

Chapter 23

DISCOVERY OF THE "BIRD-TRACKS"

Long before the arrival of the White Man there were human inhabitants here on the land that is now Gill. Countless generations of the Red Man must have come and gone as the centuries rolled away while the Indians wove their trails among the hills and carried their canoes around the falls in the river. The indications of their presence, found in varying depths below the surface of the soil, offer clear proof that for untold years the Indians made this a place of habitation. Had they been here only transiently, they would not have dug granaries in which to store their harvested grain, and many of these were found here by the early settlers. This locality was undoubtedly one of the permanent dwelling spots between times of periodic migration.

Even were this not so, the Indians must have come here for ages on seasonal visits because of the exceptional opportunities for fishing and hunting. The large quantities of shad caught here each spring when the first settlers arrived was no new incident, but must have attracted the natives to this place from the remote times of their first acquaintance with it.

Far earlier than all this, and long before the day of the Red Man, or the day perhaps of an even earlier race of humans, there was an abundance of animate life here. Strange and fearsome creatures roamed this region in the primeval times when it formed the basin of the great Connecticut Lake, and its outlet began to wear away the present channel that is the Connecticut River, the receding waters of the lake leaving the alluvial terraces that mark the successive levels of its decrease. Here the prehistoric mammoths and their lesser contemporaries left records of their presence in the sandstone strata.

Unnumbered centuries ago when the world was still in a state of transition, this region, so the geologists tell us, was the bed of an arm of the ocean, subject to the ebb and flow of tides. When a tide receded, a rim of muddy ooze was exposed, and the creatures living in that far-off time left imprints of their tracks wherever they traversed it. The intense heat then generated by the sun baked the mud firm before another tide came in, and the imprints were preserved as though cast in a mold. When high tide returned, another layer of mud was washed over this hard-baked surface, and at the next low tide a new mixture of slime was exposed to receive fresh imprints. These successive layers of baked mud became in time the sand-

stone strata familiar to all those who have explored this section of the Connecticut Valley. The fact that the strata contained any evidence of prehistoric life, however, was not discovered until comparatively recently, when the so-called "bird-tracks" first came under observation.

It was customary in early times to pave sidewalks in a village with flagstones. These were flat stones of any description. Due to the ready supply of sandstone in this particular locality, the flagstones used hereabouts were generally "oblongs" of this material—slabs of the mud that had been baked hard in prehistoric times.

In the summer of 1835 some flagstones were excavated on a brow of land in the southern part of Montague overlooking the Connecticut River near the Sunderland line. The stones were gathered for William Wilson, a contractor of Greenfield, to complete a pavement along Clay Hill to the Court House of that day. Dexter Marsh, the town handy-man, had been engaged by Mr. Wilson to lay the flagstones. While doing this work, Mr. Marsh noticed some peculiar indentations on one of the slabs that looked very much like the tracks of some giant bird. Although Dexter Marsh received slight schooling in his boyhood, and all his life worked as a day-laborer, he possessed an inquiring mind and an intelligence considerably above average. He believed the specimen to be worth more than passing interest, so put the slab aside for further examination and study.

News soon spread about that Mr. Marsh had a flagstone propped up against his fence, and that he claimed the stone had a track on it left by some giant bird, and many came to view the curiosity. To Dr. James Deane it also appeared to be something more than a curious accident in the stone's formation. Dr. Deane was a practicing physician in Greenfield at that time, and was well versed in the knowledge of matters connected with natural science, having long been a keen student of nature. His interest was immediately aroused because he comprehended to some extent what could be added to geological knowledge if the specimen proved to be a "track." Accordingly at Dr. Deane's suggestion, Dexter Marsh began a careful watch for additional evidence of these imprints.

The discovery of other slabs bearing similar impressions of varying sizes and types proved that the original had not been a freak formation, and when finally "right" tracks with matching "left" tracks were found, it became indisputably clear that the imprints were the fossilized tracks of extinct creatures. Realizing the significance of this discovery, Dr. Deane brought the matter to the attention of some of the leading men of science, among whom were Professor B. Silliman of Yale College and Dr. Edward Hitchcock. The latter was the most distinguished geologist of this vicinity, then a professor at Amherst College, and later the president of that institution. Dr. Hitchcock was not easily convinced and remained highly skept-

tical for some time, believing it to be beyond credence that creatures existed previous to the rock formation.

However, when Dr. Deane produced casts of the imprints and Dr. Hitchcock discerned the joints in the toes of the feet that had made the "tracks" then Dr. Hitchcock finally decided a discovery worth investigating had been made. He promptly journeyed to Greenfield to see the collected specimens, and after careful examination came to the conclusion that they were fossilized tracks, and that a page in geologic science must be written anew. The specimens became known as "bird-tracks" because that was what they resembled, and for a long time it was assumed they had been made by bipeds existing in the early periods of time. Dr. Deane and Dexter Marsh immediately became enthusiastic bird-track collectors, and Dr. Hitchcock began a thorough study of the specimens for the purpose of scientific classification.

Six or seven years later, Roswell Field, who acquired a considerable reputation as an authority on the subject in after years, became interested and began to collect specimens. He discovered several locations on his own land in Gill where the tracks were plentiful. This locality soon became the hunting ground of students and collectors, and a large demand for specimens to supply colleges and museums sprang up. Dr. Hitchcock was a frequent visitor, accompanied often by students from Amherst College. The region was soon bereft of accessible specimens, and it was a slow and tedious process to unearth and separate the buried ones successfully.

Due largely to Dr. Hitchcock's suggestions, Timothy M. Stoughton became interested in the feasibility of an undertaking to quarry specimens as a commercial enterprise, and about the year 1859 began a systematic excavation of sandstone slabs. The first place explored was on the Gill bank of the river just above the site of the Red Suspension Bridge where many valuable specimens were found. The second location worked was on the Montague side of the river in the vicinity of the "horserace." This spot proved to be a prolific yielder and a large number of tracks were removed, but the completion of the new dam across the Connecticut in 1867 so raised the level of the river at times of high water that work was finally abandoned at both locations.

Mr. Stoughton meanwhile had leased from Roswell Field the two locations which Mr. Field had already successfully worked for the collection of his specimens. One of the locations, on the Pisgah Road between the old double schoolhouse and Mr. Field's farmhouse, proved worthless, as the buried sandstone was found to be soft, and crumbled as soon as it was exposed. The other site, however, was all that could be desired, and for the following twenty or more years the "bird-track quarry" in the

ledges overlooking the Lily Pond was successfully worked during the summer months. From this quarry came many of the specimens in collections at Amherst, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, and other colleges, as well as those in a great many natural history museums. The Yale Class of 1868, as a graduation gift to its Alma Mater, purchased one of the largest slabs ever excavated by Mr. Stoughton, who kept the specimen in storage for thirty years, until Yale was ready for its delivery.

At first the specimens were stored in sheds built for their accommodation near the quarry, but padlocks and barred windows were insufficient protection against unscrupulous collectors and souvenir hunters, and the slabs were removed to a long storehouse erected by Mr. Stoughton in the barn lot opposite his house, at the western edge of his apple orchard.

Roswell Field was claimed to have been the first to challenge the opinion that the largest imprints were the tracks of giant birds, and to have advanced the theory that the tracks were made by dinosaurs and other kindred quadrupeds. His conclusions were set forth in a paper read by him before a meeting of the "American Association for the Advancement of Science" held in Springfield, Mass., in August 1859. Mr. Field's scientific theories, like the wisdom of many a prophet, were held in little esteem by his fellow townsmen, who were pleased to address him jocosely after his appearance before the gathering in Springfield as "Dr. Field," a title which Mr. Field graciously accepted as quite rightfully due him, and which clung to him for the rest of his days. His theory, however, soon came to be generally accepted. Professor Louis Agassiz, the Swiss-American naturalist, was one of the first to support Mr. Field's contentions.

Many distinguished men of science, among them Professor Thomas Huxley, the English authority, came to Gill to visit the quarry and inspect the bird-tracks. After the quarrying operations were discontinued, Mr. Stoughton occasionally permitted professors from the nearby colleges to extract any specimens obtainable, and such activities at the quarry were carried on intermittently over a period of many years.

Quite a controversy developed in later years over the rightful discoverer of the "bird-tracks," the distinction being claimed by Dexter Marsh, and also by Dr. Deane, as well as by Dr. Hitchcock. Perhaps all three of them may be termed discoverers, each in his particular way. Although Dexter Marsh may have split open the specimen that first brought about scientific investigation, it was not an original discovery. "Tracks" in the sandstone had already been noticed and commented upon by others, who viewed them merely as curiosities. The fact that Dexter Marsh wondered if the specimen that came to his notice was not a little more than a curiosity was probably the starting point in the discovery of what the

tracks really mean. Little progress might have been made, however, except for Dr. Deane, who undoubtedly was the first to observe them from a scientific viewpoint, and to realize their possible significance. Dr. Deane brought the matter to the attention of Dr. Hitchcock and other noteworthy geologists, and Dr. Hitchcock reluctantly was forced to agree with Dr. Deane's conclusions. After extensive investigation, the results of his own researches, as well as the evidence accumulated by Dr. Deane and Dexter Marsh, were introduced to the scientific world by Dr. Hitchcock. Each of the three played his part, and all three together were necessary to the "discovery of the bird-tracks," very much as "the whole is equal to the sum of its parts." Had an untimely death not come to Professor B. Silliman, he too probably would have figured largely in the developments.

Howsoever all this may be, Dr. Field appears to have been the one to whom permanent record of credit has been given. The agents appointed by Mr. Field in his will to select an appropriate monument for his grave have rewarded his generous remembrance by placing an inscription on the elaborate monument in the Northfield Farms Cemetery which proclaims him to have been "the Discoverer and Collector of Fossil Footprints in the Sandstone Beds."

Chapter 24

THE VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE

A growing village soon sprang up around the mills of Holmes, Wood & Perry on the Gill side of Turner's Falls, and when application for a post office at this place was made in 1872, "Riverside" was chosen as an appropriate and pleasing name. Although several other localities in Massachusetts were commonly referred to by the same name, a fact that gave rise at times to some postal confusion, it was the only Riverside that had a post office, and as Riverside it flourished during the following thirty-five years, a community of manufacturing interests and social activities.

The site of the village was the battleground of the Falls Fight on May 19, 1676 between the Indians and Captain William Turner's men. Previous to this it had been the gathering place during untold ages for Indians from near and far distances when each returning spring brought the annual run of shad and salmon to the spawning grounds. Here for weeks the Indians feasted on plentiful fish, and prepared stores for future food supply. After the shad and salmon run was over, and the Indians from other sections had departed, there were natives who remained. They stayed here a greater part of the year, and their implements of hunting and agriculture have been found profusely strewn over the locality. The large quantities of relics that have been unearthed hereabouts plainly indicate that these Indians must have camped here for countless years.

Hardly a cellar has been dug for a house in Riverside when workmen have not uncovered evidences of Indian presence—plows and hoes, arrowheads and spears, tomahawks and scalping knives; often the charred embers of a fire with fragments of pottery; and very frequently, skeletons of the Indians themselves. Numerous skeletons have been exhumed in the vicinity of Fort Hill which seems to have been a favorite burial place. The wide variance in the form and stature of the skeletons undoubtedly indicates that successions of different tribes must have camped here, and that long periods of time probably separated some of the burials. In excavating one cellar, several skeletons in a sitting position were discovered, each one of them being the skeleton of an Indian fully seven feet tall.

Indian relics were so common at first that little value was put on them

by the farmers, who if they paused to save any, generally threw the specimens into a bushel basket and cheerfully squandered a quart of arrowheads on any visitor who wanted them. However, a few good collections were made, one of them being the collection bequeathed to Mount Hermon by Roswell Field, and another, the collection made by Albert Smith which was purchased of his heirs by the Massachusetts State College.

The village site furnished the principal fishing place for the early settlers, as it had for the Indians, during the annual shad run. It also was the stage set for the "Election Day" festivities each year, and these subjects are treated more fully in another chapter. A ferry to the Montague side of the river was in use prior to the Revolutionary War, and as soon as the construction of a dam across the river made water power available, a sawmill was located at the Gill end.

Due to the fact that the Connecticut River makes a sudden turn at the mouth of Millers River and continues an irregular northwestern course until it makes a counteracting turn just below Great Falls, the land between these points is referred to in early records as "the nook of the falls." The agricultural and fishing advantages offered here in this "nook of the falls" attracted some of the town's earliest settlers, among whom were George Howland, Timothy Childs, Bela Orcutt, John Thornton, Willis Phillips, Joseph Lee, Joshua Combs, George Loveland, Adam Wellman, and Charles Williams.

George Howland of Barnstable was the first to purchase land here after the 1736 allotments in the draughts "east of Green river and north of Cheapside." The original Howland purchase in 1743 included the properties now occupied by the Barton heirs, S. Fred Kerslake, Sr. and Jr., Albert Fish, Philip Shebell, Mrs. Mary Gusan, Mrs. Barbara Hastaba, John Duda, and the former Platt or Dascomb property. The familiar "Old Red House" and the house owned and occupied by Albert Fish were built by the Howlands.

Timothy Childs, Jr., soon after his marriage in 1744, settled on the property belonging to his father adjoining the Howland purchase on the east, and running thence westwardly to the road from "the fish falls to Northfield." His house stood on the east side of the road below his barns, the sheepcotes extending back of them to the east where three giant maple trees marked the spot until recently. Isaiah Hosley, who bought the property from Timothy's son, Eliphaz, later purchased the tract of land opposite on the west side of the road. When Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck bought the combined properties from William Smalley in 1795, he built a new house on the west side of the road somewhat above the old location, where a slight knoll gave better drainage in wet seasons. Lieutenant Shattuck drove to Boston with a load of farm pro-

duce, and came back with the nails and window-glass used in the construction of his house, as the proceeds of his journey. Parts of the house he built still remain as the kitchen and front ell of the Stoughton farmhouse.

Bela Orcutt was the first resident owner of the property east of the Howlands, once known as the "Bissell farm" and later as the "Roswell Field farm," comprising the properties now owned by Mrs. Emma Chappell and Michael Wasielewski.

An unpainted, weather-beaten house once stood near the spot now occupied by the Captain William Turner Monument, on land belonging to the Proprietors of the Locks and Canals. The original builder and owner is unknown. It was occupied at one time by Richard H. Hastings, and later by a man whose name has been handed down as Don Lorenzo Bendaboli Moore, concerning whom nothing but the tradition of his name is known. In 1871 Timothy M. Stoughton, who had come into possession of the building, moved it to the brow of the hill on the old road to Factory Hollow, and it forms part of the house now owned by Winston LeVitre.

The old Charles Williams farmhouse, later the Cornelius Allen homestead, was long a familiar landmark at the foot of the Straits until destroyed by fire.

A small building once stood where William G. Johnson later located his store. It was known as the "Dick House," but the reason therefore has not been discovered. On either side of the Dick house was another old house. These houses were probably built during the years when the canal was in operation and river traffic thrived in the summer months. Their particular use or purpose in this connection must remain a matter of conjecture. No records or traditions appear to have been handed down. Still another old house stood near the river opposite the F. D. Jones store property. This house was not far from the sawmill that stood at the Gill end of the first dam, and was part of the mill possessions.

The foregoing farms, and the three or four houses between the falls and the ferry, comprised the village when Mr. Holmes came here in 1867 and purchased water-power rights for a sawmill and a gristmill on the Gill side of the river. The arrival of his associates, David A. Wood and Amos E. Perry, and the start of milling operations, soon made the neighborhood resound with building activities for the accommodation of owners and workmen. Mr. Holmes and Mr. Wood built very similar houses side by side on Ferry Road between Walnut and Oak Streets, the Holmes house now being owned by his grandson, Joseph N. Starbuck. Mr. Wood's house later became the property of Edward Morgan, and is now owned by Mrs. John Sokoloski. Mr. Perry built the more

pretentious residence at the head of Ferry Road, later named Bridge Street, and the three-story building painted colonial yellow, set above double terraces, made an impressive appearance for more than fifty years until deserted by its heirs. It was demolished by the present owner, and the yawning cellar-hole is now the only reminder of its splendid past.

Albert Smith, who served as ferryman for many years, in 1869 built the house on the brow of land above the ferry, the old road to the ferry being located on the lower level. Frank W. Smith, son of Albert, at a considerably later date built the adjacent house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Margaret E. Warren.

The old Brainard house at Gill Center was bought by Timothy M. Stoughton in 1869 and much of the serviceable lumber in it was used by him in building the house on Walnut Street now the property of Paul Nadeau. At about the same time, Edwin W. Hunt built the first house erected on Grove Street, but soon deeded it to his sister, Lizzie C. Sanderson, widow of Dwight Sanderson of Sunderland. She married Horatio Marsh in 1870, and the place was sold by her heirs to Frank D. Jones in 1884. The house owned by Arthur O. Welcome was also built about 1869 by Curtis Johnson, who later erected the adjacent house on the corner of Pine and Bridge Streets.

The household needs of the growing village were not overlooked, and David A. Wood, soon after his arrival, erected a temporary store building in which groceries and general merchandise were on sale. The building stood on ground in the rear of the present F. D. Jones store, and Enrico Perry was the storekeeper.

Due largely to his acquaintance with Mr. Holmes, Gilbert L. Rist came to Riverside in 1869 and opened a shoemaker's shop in a small building that stood on Ferry Road opposite Pine Street. Mr. Rist, however, soon moved to the growing village of Turners Falls, where he later became one of the leading merchants, and a man of respected business ability.

The next business venture in Riverside was a restaurant opened on November 18, 1869 by William G. Johnson, a young man who had just reached his legal age of responsibility. For some months previously he had been driving the stage between Greenfield and Turners Falls. Curtis Johnson, his father, was a carpenter who had moved his family to Riverside from Hancock, N. H., and many of the early houses here were erected under his supervision.

Alfred M. Adams, Mr. Curtis Johnson's son-in-law, in 1870 built the house next to Mr. Perry's residence on the present French King Highway. Sylvanus Stebbins in the same year built the house at the corner

of the highway and Myrtle Street. Somewhat later he erected the house next on the highway, now owned by George R. Richason. Frank B. Foster and his father-in-law, Dwight Field, in 1870 built the house on the corner of Grove and Pine Streets, now owned by John H. Cocking.

In 1870 Timothy M. Stoughton laid a system of pump-logs to the village from the so-called "Heal-All Spring" on his property, in order to supply the families with water for household purposes. Six years later the pump-logs were replaced by iron pipes. In 1884 Mr. Stoughton's enterprise was incorporated as the "Riverside Water Company," and reservoirs and additional pipe lines were provided to furnish adequate supplies of water to all parts of the village.

In 1871 the house on Grove Street owned by Donald Webber was built by Albert Smith, and in 1872 the house owned by Raymond Graves was built by Ward Harris. In August 1872, William G. Johnson opened a grocery department in his restaurant. This venture proved to be the beginning of a prosperous business conducted by Mr. Johnson for the following forty-odd years, and the restaurant was soon discontinued.

David A. Wood erected the three-story store building now occupied by Frank D. Jones in 1872, and "Wood's Hall" on the top floor was for many years the village gathering place for social and religious meetings. It was dedicated on September 29, 1872 with much ceremony, Governor William B. Washburn being the principal speaker.

The temporary building in which Mr. Wood had previously done business was immediately moved back to the lot on Grove Street, which Holmes, Wood & Perry had bought of John Cady, and converted into a dwelling in which Philo Thornton, the mail-carrier, lived for many years. It is now, after much remodeling, the Zimmerman house. In those days there was a street at these points connecting Grove Street and the road to the ferry, and the land on the west side now used as a garden by the Zimmerman family was a swamp in which small turtles having black shells decorated with bright yellow spots abounded. On the edge of the swamp, about midway off the road, stood the old blacksmith shop, presided over by a long line of smiths, from George McCoy and Horace R. Sherman, who lost his life on November 19, 1881 in Goddard's Pond while returning late at night from the convivial resorts in Turners Falls, to Cyril LaChappelle who was smith there later on for many years.

David A. Wood was appointed postmaster for Riverside in September 1872, and a post office was opened in his new store. A dress-making establishment in the building was also advertised in 1872 by Mrs. R. E. Wyart. Early in that same year Holmes, Wood & Perry had reorganized as the Turners Falls Lumber Company with a capitalization of \$60,000, and the mill buildings were enlarged in the spring of

the following year. The general panic that occurred in 1873, however, combined with the loss of a large quantity of logs that broke away from a boom in October, brought financial difficulties to the new association, and a few years later the controlling interests in the company passed into the hands of Timothy M. Stoughton, William O. Comstock of Greenfield, and Horatio A. Lamb of Boston. Mr. Holmes and Mr. Perry continued in the employ of the company, but Mr. Wood removed to Boston where he entered the woodworking department of the Boston Elevated Railroad.

A fire company was organized on October 28, 1873 with Leonard Barton as the secretary, and company officers as follows:

Chief Engineer	Henry Park
Assistant Engineers	J. K. Burbank, Henry W. Loveland
Pumpmen	A. E. Perry, J. K. Burbank, R. S. Locke, George H. McCoy
Hoseman	Charles W. Ryther, A. R. Jones, John G. Perry, Julian Holmes, A. M. Adams, A. C. Lewis J. A. Shebell, C. W. Jones

The following comment is from the "Turners Falls Reporter:"

"The company have at present three hundred feet of hose but efforts will be made to secure at least a thousand feet without delay, and the whole village will enjoy the security of an efficient fire department."

In December 1874 William G. Johnson succeeded David A. Wood as postmaster, an appointment which he retained until the post office was discontinued on January 2, 1907, rural free delivery in Riverside having been added to the Gill route at the beginning of October in the year preceding. During those years the mail was brought to Riverside by carrier from the post office in Turners Falls. Lewis P. Platt, Philo Thornton, John Boardman, Sylvanus M. Stebbins, and George W. Harris were some of those who acted as carriers.

In September 1877 Mr. Wood sold his store property to Levi M. Tucker of Halifax, Vt., and Mr. Tucker conducted a grocery and general merchandise business there until the establishment was purchased by Frank D. Jones in 1890.

William G. Johnson's store was discovered ablaze at five o'clock on the morning of May 12, 1884, and his family narrowly escaped. The building was completely burned, as was the adjacent house owned by Nathaniel A. Holmes. Considerable damage also was suffered by Levi M. Tucker's store and stock. Mr. Johnson at once erected a larger building

with better accommodations for his business and his family. He also later purchased Mr. Holmes's adjoining lot of land and built the dwelling which still stands on it.

In 1885 the Turners Falls Lumber Company leased the land between the sawmill and the Red Suspension Bridge to New York interests for the erection of a Kindling Wood Factory to utilize the waste wood that came from the sawmill, and a two-story building 30 by 60 feet, with a tower 40 feet in height, was built. The waste wood was cut into strips and these recut into pieces $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. After passing through a drying process, especially designed machines were operated to tie the pieces into uniform bundles which were then shipped to city markets to be used as kindling wood. The business was no sooner started, however, than the owners became involved in a contest for control of the company, and the two factions being unable to come to an agreement finally sold out to the Turners Falls Lumber Company. The factory was operated successfully until the plant was destroyed by fire on April 24, 1891. The factory was not rebuilt and during the following fifteen years the tall brick chimney, not taken down until April 1906, was a constant solitary reminder of the factory's previous existence.

In 1886 the same interests that operated the lumber company incorporated the "New England Fibre Company" for the production of sulphite pulp under a process patented by William P. Crocker. The company purchased a tract of land at the rear side of Fort Hill, where a mill was erected and production started in the next year. A high grade of wood pulp was manufactured, but competition with larger producers located nearer the timberlands rendered the costs of production unprofitable, and the project was abandoned in 1901.

The mills of the Turners Falls Lumber Company caught fire sometime during the night of December 30, 1903. When the blaze was first discovered shortly before three o'clock in the morning of the 31st, it had gained such headway as to be beyond all control, and the plant was totally destroyed. George W. Hamilton, the night watchman, lost his life in the fire, and the reasons for his death as well as the causes of the fire were never determined. Riverside's period of manufacturing activity ended with the destruction of the sawmill.

During these years dwellings had been erected in scattered locations throughout the village, and the place now presented the appearance of a substantial community. About 1870 Dr. Niles Butler Sornborger began the erection of the three-story house still standing nearly opposite the entrance to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Thomas J. Carey in 1878 built a house on Fort Hill where the altered highway for the approach to the Red Suspension Bridge was located. The basement of this two-story

building was first used as a restaurant. Mr. Carey sold the property to Charles Thompson, who in turn sold to Frank W. Smith, and the building was torn down and replaced by the house now owned and occupied by Harry M. Murley.

In 1880 Joseph Arms built the house on the French King Highway owned by Ambroise Desautels. The widow Sarah P. Phillips in the same year built the house on Grove Street owned by Mrs. Henrietta Bergeron, and the writer of this history happened to be a member of the family that became Mrs. Phillip's first tenant.

In 1881 Charles R. Stoughton built the house on the corner of Walnut Street and Myrtle Street, and Thomas J. Carey built the house on Walnut Street owned by Mrs. William J. Rosewarne. Three houses were also built on Oak Street; Jason S. Brown, the house occupied by Rollin N. Maynard; Martin Sumner, the house owned by Mrs. William J. Carey; and Jerome D. Harrington, the house owned by Jacob Schatz.

In 1883 Henry Scott built the house on Walnut Street owned by George Wyman, and Charles R. Stoughton built the house on Walnut Street adjacent to the one he had recently completed. In the following year Mr. Stoughton built a third house in the vacant space on his property next to the Rosewarne house. The house now owned by S. Fred Kerslake, Sr. on French King Highway was erected by Herrick Howland in 1883. In 1889 James Potter built the house on Grove Street owned by Mrs. Katherine Pervere.

The foregoing completes the list of dwellings built in Riverside fifty or more years ago.

Social gatherings, entertainments, and the usual civic activities of a growing village were in full swing during those years. A village improvement association known as "The Home Aid Society" was formed by the ladies of Riverside at an early date, and by the year 1886 had accumulated sufficient funds to build an asphalt sidewalk from the corner of Walnut Street to the Red Suspension Bridge. A few traces of that sidewalk still remain. The following composition, taken from the Turners Falls "High School Bulletin" for 1886, was written by Harriet Sornborger, daughter of the Doctor, and probably contains more than a smattering of truth:

RIVERSIDE SIDEWALKS

Twenty years ago the City of Turners Falls was a cow pasture full of old stumps of trees, a swamp filled with slimy water and there was one solitary house.

Nineteen years ago the mill at Riverside was built. Eighteen years ago the Cutlery foundation was laid and the city began to grow.

Fifteen years ago there was no religious society in Turners Falls and the few who went to church at all went over to Riverside where there was a small society of worshippers of all denominations who met to sing and pray and preach in a hall.

The ladies of the conglomerate society formed themselves in to an aid society with all the forms of such societies, including sociables, fairs, grab-bags, etc., their object being to raise money to furnish a church when they should conclude to build one. Very soon they had accumulated two or three hundred dollars.

Then the question came up—what kind of a minister shall we have? So all the ladies met to settle the matter. Of course they all talked at once, and each was ready to express an opinion. Mrs. A. said that she was not a sectarian by any means, but Riverside was a new place and would be inhabited by working people in a great measure; and, as the Methodists were a pious sect, with liberal ideas, humble and lowly, like the Master, and not given to bigotry or to Unitarianism—she just thought it would be well to have a Methodist minister.

Mrs. B. said she did not mean to be sectarian, but then she could not help believing that there was a fitness in all things; and, if people would use things as they were made to be used and intended to be used by the Great Creator, they would conform to natural laws and be better Christians and live longer. "Here we are," she said, "beside this beautiful river full of clean water, and I solemnly say it seems plain to me that this place from the first was intended to be a Baptist village."

Mrs. C. said she thought there might be good Christians among the Methodists and the Baptists, but as this was a new place, it would be well to put in a good foundation in religion as well as in other things, and good, sound doctrine was as essential in building up a church people as sound timber was in building the edifice.

Finally they one and all concluded to put the money in the bank until Providence should make the way more clear. So the money was put in the bank and the years went by until the middle-aged women of the beginning were well down the shady slope of life, and the younger ones were so far up the sunny side that they could get a glimpse over the crest.

Then on a Spring Day, remembering their money in the bank, the ladies came together again. Mrs. C. said, "Come, now let us all go to South Deerfield together and have a good time, perhaps Providence will show the way to spend our money." So they all got

into a wagon and went to South Deerfield, had a grand dinner and a strong cup of tea, and were so elated and shaken up that not one of them could tell whether they were Baptists, Unitarians, Methodists, or what. Then said Mrs. A., "We are all good Christians, and with all the churches there are now in Turners Falls, we can go there and get any particular kind of religion we want; our only trouble is in getting there.

So they decided to BUILD A SIDEWALK with their money.

In 1890 "The Home Aid Society" obtained a charter in order that it might possess property and erect a hall in which public gatherings could be held. Building operations were started in January 1891, and the new hall was formally opened with a fair and supper on April 23rd and 24th, 1891. At the Society's annual melon supper held September 17th of that year, Mr. S. Fred Kerslake gave the second public exhibition of his trained pigs, an act that was destined to be seen throughout the United States on the Keith Vaudeville Circuit, and in Mexico and Europe as part of Ringling's Circus.

When the mill of the Turners Falls Lumber Company was burned, the village lost the common bond that held the community together, and the families whose head found employment in Turners Falls and Greenfield gradually drifted to those villages for social gatherings. The Grange, the Rebeccas, the Eastern Star, and other lodges soon absorbed the younger elements that should have taken the places of the older, retiring active members of the Home Aid Society, and the hall that for nearly half a century had been the center of Riverside social life began to be unused and neglected. In 1938 the property was turned over to the Town of Gill for the benefit of a Riverside Library Building Fund. On the advice of insurance inspectors, the structure was demolished in the following year, and the sale price received from the wrecking company was deposited to the credit of that fund.



*Riverside Hall (large two-story building),
the social center of the village for many years, early 1900's.*



The Perry house, Riverside, early 1900's.



The Dr. Niles Butler Sornborger house, Riverside, around 1900.



Captain William Turner Monument, Riverside, about 1903.



The Stoughton farm, Riverside, around 1920.



The Barton farmstead, Riverside, early 1900's.



Dr. Roswell Field homestead, right, and the Foster homestead, Riverside, in the 1890's.



Bridge Street, Riverside. Small building at left once Riverside Library. Three large buildings in center are from left, former Jones store, Johnson store and post office, and Howe house.

Chapter 25

THE LOG DRIVES

In order to supply Holmes, Wood & Perry with logs enough to keep their sawmill operating for a full year, it was necessary to purchase large quantities in the timber regions around the headwaters of the Connecticut River. The trees were felled during the winter months and the logs were piled on the frozen smaller streams that flowed into the Connecticut, or its tributaries. When the ice melted, the logs were deposited in those streams, and after the spring freshets had subsided, they were released and floated into the Connecticut. When a sufficient number had been collected at a given point, the drive started on its three-month journey down the river.

The first drive for the mill here was undertaken by Mr. Holmes in the spring of 1869, and though he was told that the distance made the venture impracticable, he succeeded in bringing over 3,000,000 feet of timber safely to the mill. For the following thirty-and-more years, the annual log drive was a slated event. When a sawmill was built at Mount Tom, a sluiceway in the dam here was constructed on the Gill side of Great Island to enable the log drive for that mill to get by. The two drives came down together and often amounted to over 50,000,000 feet of timber. Each company had its own distinguishing mark on its logs which were separated accordingly at a sorting-gap near the narrows, and kept apart by booms.

A large crew of men was necessary to keep these drives moving—from the first arrivals at the head of the drive to the tail-enders who gathered in the logs that had lodged in inlets or had been washed up on the river banks. Many spectators were attracted to the river to watch the rivermen as they expertly “ran the logs,” or, peavy in hand, balanced themselves precariously for an instant on some rolling log. The sluicing operations always offered a particular diversion for the on-lookers, who seemed to find fascination in watching the procession of logs racing through the sluice to the turbulent waters below the falls where sometimes a jam of logs in the eddies furnished added interest. The Fred T. Ley Company burned the old sluice in November 1915 as the cheapest way of disposing of it when the new dam was nearing completion.

The size of the drives increased from year to year until it became necessary to let the delivery out to contract, and the Van Dyke associates

performed this service over a period of many years. Mr. George Van Dyke became a well-known figure here, as also did Abner Bean, his general foreman.

Despite the seemingly hazardous nature of their employment, few fatal accidents to the riverman occurred here. Irving Reed, about 22 years of age, from Colebrook, N. H., was drowned near the Montague City Bridge on August 28, 1883. He had been stationed at one of the piers to prevent jamming, and in an attempt to return to shore, lost his balance in crossing on the logs. In the following year, William McGowan, a native of New Brunswick, was instantly killed by the premature explosion of a charge of giant powder in trying to break up a jam below the falls. Several of the rivermen had an involuntary trip down the sluiceway without disastrous results, one local man, Walter Carson, being among the number.

The worst fatality connected with the drives was not among the rivermen, but was the one in which George Van Dyke and his chauffeur, Frederick B. Hodgdon, lost their lives. Hodgdon had driven Mr. Van Dyke to the brow of the cliff overlooking the sluiceway below the dam, and for some unexplained reason the car shot over the precipice to land overturned on the rocks 85 feet below. Mr. Van Dyke either jumped or was thrown from the car. The chauffeur remained at the wheel. The accident happened on Sunday morning, August 8, 1909, and both men died in the Farren Memorial Hospital that same afternoon.

The following article from the "Turners Falls Reporter" for August 22, 1883 gives some interesting details concerning these drives:

"The big drive of 60 million feet of logs is fast passing this point and by to-morrow night, if in good luck, the last log will have passed the sluice. The drive has been about 110 days coming from head waters, having an average of 325 men. They started with over 700 men, and at present the force numbers about 250. About 60 per cent of the drivers are employed the year through, in winter in the woods, and in summer on the drive. The other 40 per cent come from all over Maine and the Provinces, and collect at the head waters every year in time to be hired to begin the annual drives as soon as ice goes out of the rivers and lakes. The most careful oversight is not sufficient to prevent the loss of many logs during the course of the journey of 400 miles; the many rapids and falls on the river destroy many more, while the axe and giant powder used to break up the jams causes great waste. The half mile of Falls and rapids at Turners Falls entail by far the greatest loss of logs incurred in passing any other similar place on the river, and the loss varies from 6 to 10 per cent, depending on whether the water is high or low. The water has

been so low this year that the rivermen had to put flash-boards on the dam in order to secure enough head to carry the logs through the sluice."

In the issue of June 16, 1886, the "Turners Falls Reporter" mentioned that:

"The drive of logs coming down the river formed the largest jam at Waterford, near Barnet, that has ever been seen on the river. The logs piled up for a distance of a mile, and in some places to a height of 25 feet. Three hundred men have been at work using explosives and all other available means to break up the jam, and the cost has been estimated as \$20,000."



Tenting grounds of loggers above dam in Riverside, around 1905.



The Narrows, about 1900. Here logs were separated and kept apart by booms for Turners Falls Lumber Company in Riverside and mills at Mount Tom.

Chapter 26

GILL MILITARY RECORDS

Song

“Our business is like men to fight,
And hero-like to die.”
Motherwell.

Would'st thou have a song of the days of war?
Of the deeds of the brave and free?
O dip me a pen in a burning star,
And I'll write a song for thee!

Or give me a quill that the eagle wore
When he screamed upon the sea,
And shook the country the waters o'er,
And I'll write a song for thee!

I'll tell how the proud came over the waves,
In gold and scarlet clad,
To bend as low as the lowest slaves
The men they had driven mad!

I see them now in their bright array,
With their kingly banner high!
Come on! you will meet the men to-day
That are not afraid to die!

I see them now, and the casques they wear.
And the swords they bear are bright,
And gracefully float the plumes in air
That the dust will stain to-night!

They jest of the foe they so despise—
They will learn but with the smart,
They may fight as well with the flask of the skies
As the lightning of the heart!

(From “Legends of New England,” by
Julia Gill and Frances Lee.)

SOLDIERS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Gill was a part of Greenfield at the time of the Revolutionary War, and its soldiers are consequently listed as belonging to the Town of Greenfield. It furnished two officers: Timothy Childs and Samuel Stoughton, who were respectively elected Captain and Lieutenant of the 3rd Company of the 5th Hampshire County Regiment, and each received his officer's commission on May 3, 1778. Captain Childs served in the Ticonderoga campaign in the spring of 1777, and also led a company from Greenfield on the Bennington alarm, August 14, 1777. Lieutenant Stoughton did not return with his company from Bennington, but, enlisting in the Northern Army, served until the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga in October, when his company was discharged.

The following service records apply to soldiers who came from the part of Greenfield now Gill, and the information has been obtained from the published "Massachusetts Soldier and Sailors of the Revolutionary War," with additional data, in some cases, from pension papers in the National Archives:

ALLEN, BENJAMIN. Private, Capt. Abel Dinsmore's Co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's regt.; enlisted Aug. 17, 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777; service 3 mos. 22 days with Northern army.

ALLEN, ITHAMAR. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Leonard's regt.; enlisted Feb. 24, 1777; discharged April 10, 1777; service 1 mo. 17 days; also Capt. Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; enlisted Aug. 14, 1777; discharged Aug. 18, 1777; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington.

ALLEN, HENRY. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted April 26, 1775; service 3 mos. 13 days; also company return (probably Oct. 1775).

ALLEN, JEREMIAH. Descriptive list of men raised to reinforce Continental Army for term of six months agreeable to resolve of June 5, 1780; age, 49 yrs.; stature, 5 ft. 6 ins.; complexion, light. Arrived at Springfield July 31, 1780; that day marched to camp under Capt. Greenleaf. Also, list of men raised for six months service and returned by Brig. Gen. Patterson as having passed muster, in a return dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 25, 1780; also, pay roll for 6 mos. men raised by town of Greenfield for service in Continental Army during 1780. Marched July 30; discharged Nov. 16, 1780.

ALLEN, JOHN. (Same service record as Ithamar Allen.)

ALLEN, MOSES. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; company return (probably Oct. 1775); also, order for

bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Prospect Hill, Dec. 22, 1775; also, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; enlisted Aug. 14, 1777; discharged Aug. 18, 1777; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington.

BROWN, DAVID. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington, Aug. 14, 1777.

CARY, JESSE. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted July 15, 1775; service 17 days; also company return (probably Oct. 1775); also, receipt for wages for Sept. 1775, dated Prospect Hill; also order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Prospect Hill, Dec. 22, 1775. (Listed as Carey.)

CARY, SETH. Private, Capt. John Wells's Co., Col. David Wells's regt.; enlisted Sept. 22, 1777; discharged Oct. 23, 1777; service 1 mo. 2 days in Northern department. Roll dated Shelburne.

CARY, SIMEON. Private Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Leonard's regt.; Co. raised Feb. 24, 1777 for service at Ticonderoga; service 1 mo. 17 days, descriptive list of men enlisted fr. Hampshire Co. for term of 9 mos. fr. time of their arrival in Fishkill, July 11, 1778; descriptive list of men raised to reinforce the Continental Army for term of 6 months agreeable to resolve of June 5, 1780; age, 26 yrs.; stature, 6 ft.; complexion, dark; arrived at Springfield Aug. 1780; marched to camp Aug. 2, 1780 under command of Lt. Brig. Pike; list of men raised for six months service and returned by Brig. Gen. Patterson as having passed muster in a return dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 25, 1780; pay roll 6 mos. men raised by town of G'nf'd for service in Continental Army during 1780; marched July 25, 1780; discharged Feb. 3, 1781; service 6 mos. 9 days; descriptive list of men enlisted to serve in Continental Army as returned by Noah Goodman, Supt. for Hampshire Co.; age, 27 yrs.; stature, 6 ft.; complexion, dark; hair, dark; occupation, farmer; enlisted Apr. 12, 1781; enlistment, 3 yrs. Also private, Capt. Asa Curn's Co., Lt. Col. John Brook's regt., roll for June 1781; also Capt. Jonathan Felt's Co., Lt. Col. John Brook's regt., roll for Feb. 1782, dated York Huts; reported sick in Massachusetts. A Revolutionary War pensioner. (Listed both as Carey and Cary.)

CHILDS, ELIPHAZ. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co. of minute men, Col. Saml Williams's regt., which marched Apr. 20, 1775, in response to alarm of Apr. 19; service 10 days; reported enlisted into army May 1, 1775, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mos. 8 days; receipt for wages for Sept.

1775, dated Prospect Hill, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt; served from Aug. 14, 1777, 4 days on alarm at Bennington.

CHILDS, TIMOTHY. Capt. 3d Co., Col. David Field's (5th Hampshire Co.) regt., list of officers, Mass. Militia dated Deerfield Apr. 22, 1776, ordered in council May 3, 1776, that a commission be issued; commissioned May 3, 1776; also same regt. return dated Boston Apr. 8, 1777, of Hampshire Co. Militia who volunteered under Col. David Leonard to reinforce the army at Ticonderoga agreeable to order of council of Feb. 1777; also Col. David Wells's regt. rule for make up for service at Ticonderoga fr. May 18, 1777 to July 8, 1777; also, Col. David Field's regt., service fr. August 14, 1777, 4 days marched toward Bennington on an alarm; resignation dated Greenfield, Apr. 10, 1780, of commission as Capt. of 3rd Co., Lt. Col. David Wells's (5th Hampshire Co.) regt., on acc't of old age and infirmity; resignation accepted in council Apr. 25, 1780.

COMBS, CALEB. Enlisted or hired to serve in Continental Army fr. Lt. Saml Wells's Co., sworn to Apr. 7, 1777, engaged for town of Greenfield joined Capt. Keith's Co., Col. Jackson's regt., term 3 yrs.; also, private Capt. James Keith's Co., Col. Michael Jackson's regt., Continental Army pay accounts for service from Feb. 10, 1777 to May 15, 1778; reported died May 15, 1778.

COMBS, JOSHUA. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; marched toward Bennington Aug. 14, 1777, on an alarm; service 4 days; descriptive list of men enlisted to serve in Continental Army as returned by Noah Goodman, Supt. for Hampshire Co.; age, 16 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 5 ins.; complexion & hair light; occupation, farmer; enlisted Mch. 30, 1781, for 3 yrs.; also, receipt dated Apr. 17, 1781, for bounty paid sd Combs by Lt. Saml Wells in behalf of a class of the town of Greenfield to serve in the Continental Army for 3 yrs.; also, list of men hired to serve in Continental Army for 3 yrs., agreeable to resolve of Dec. 2, 1780, ret. by selectmen of G'nfd, & sworn to in Hampshire Co., June 7, 1781; also, private Col. Benj. Tupper's (10th) regt.; service from Mch. 18, 1781, 9 mos., 13 days; also, same regt., service from June 1, 1782, 12 mos.

HAMILTON, ELI. Private, Capt. James Walworth's Co., Col. Elisha Porter's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; enlisted July 22, 1779; discharged Aug. 27, 1779, service 1 mo., 11 days, at New London, Conn., including 6 days (113 miles) travel home; also, Capt. Oliver Shattuck's Co., Hampshire Co., regt. commanded by Lieut. Col. Barnabas Sears; enlisted Aug. 12, 1781; discharged Nov. 8, 1781, service 3 mos. 2 days, including

5 days (100 miles) travel home; company raised for 3 months; roll dated at Deerfield.

HOSLEY, BENJAMIN. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's (Greenfield) Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days; company marched on the alarm at Bennington of Aug. 14, 1777. (Listed as Horsley.)

HOSLEY, JONATHAN JEWETT. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Leonard's regt.; service 1 mo., 17 days; company raised Feb. 24, 1777, for service at Ticonderoga; also, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Porter's regt.; marched from home July 9, 1777; enlisted July 10, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service 38 days, including travel home (80 miles); company marched to reinforce Northern Army after the evacuation of Ticonderoga; roll sworn to at Deerfield. (Listed as Horsley.)

HOSLEY, SAMPSON. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Leonard's regt.; service 1 mo., 17 days; company raised Feb. 24, 1777, for service at Ticonderoga; also, private, James Walworth's Co., Col. Elisha Porter's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; enlisted July 22, 1779; discharged Aug. 27, 1779; service 1 mo., 11 days, at New London, Conn., including 6 days travel home (113 miles); also, pay roll for same service sworn to at Deerfield, also Capt. Oliver Shattuck's Co., Hampshire Co., regt., commanded by Lieut. Col. Barnabas Sears; enlisted Aug. 12, 1781; discharged Nov. 9, 1781; service 3 mos., 2 days, including 5 days travel home (100 miles); company raised for 3 months; roll dated Deerfield. A pensioner. (Listed as Horsley.)

HOSLEY, THOMAS. Private, Capt. Oliver Shattuck's Co., Hampshire Co., regt., commanded by Lieut. Col. Barnabas Sears; enlisted Aug. 12, 1781; service 3 mos., 2 days, including 5 days travel home (100 miles); company raised for 3 months; roll dated Deerfield.

HOWLAND, GEORGE. Capt. Timothy Childs's (Greenfield) Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days, company marched on alarm from Bennington of Aug. 14, 1777. (Listed as Houland.)

HOWLAND, JOHN. (Same service record as George Howland.)

LOVELAND, FREDERICK. Receipt dated Greenfield, April 17, 1781, for bounty paid by Seth Howland and Isaac Newton, on behalf of a class of the town of Greenfield to serve in the Continental Army for 3 years; also, descriptive list of men raised in Hampshire Co. to serve in the Continental Army as returned by Noah Goodman, Supt.; age, 17 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 5 in.; complexion, light; hair, light; occupation,

farmer; also, private Capt. Francis Green's Co., Col. Joseph Vose's (1st) regt.; muster roll for May 1781, dated Garrison, West Point; reported on command at Dobb's Ferry, also, muster roll for July 1781; reported on command with Col. Scammell; also, muster rolls for Aug. and Sept. 1781, dated at Peekskill; reported on command with Col. Swift in Sept. 1781; also, muster rolls for Oct. and Nov. 1781, Jan.-Mar. 1782, dated Quarters, York Hutts; reported sick in Jan. 1782; in the engagement at White Plains. A pensioner.

LOVELAND, GEORGE. (Sr.). Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co. (Greenfield), Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days; company marched on the Bennington alarm of Aug. 14, 1777.

LOVELAND, GEORGE (Jr.). Descriptive list of men detached from Hampshire Co., militia, agreeable to resolve of June 22, 1780, list dated Deerfield July 24, 1780 and returned by Maj. David Dickinson as mustered by him by order of Lieut. Col. David Wells; 3rd or 10th Co., 5th Hampshire Co., regt.; age 18 years; stature, 5 ft., 4 ins.; complexion, dark; hair, brown; eyes, light; engaged for town of Greenfield; term 3 months; also, private, Capt. Isaac Newton's Co., Col. S. Murray's regt.; enlisted July 22, 1780; discharged Oct. 10, 1780; service 2 mos., 28 days, including 9 days travel home (172 miles), regiment raised in Hampshire Co. to reinforce Continental Army for 3 months; also receipt dated Greenfield, April 17, 1781, for bounty paid Loveland by Lieut. Ebenezer Wells and David Allen, on behalf of a class of the town of Greenfield, to serve in the Continental Army for the term of 3 years; also, descriptive list of men raised in Hampshire Co. to serve in the Continental Army as returned by Noah Goodman, Supt.; age, 19 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 9 ins.; complexion, light; hair, light; occupation, farmer; engaged for town of Greenfield, April 17, 1781; term, 3 years; also, private, Capt. Francis Green's Co., Col. Joseph Vose's regt.; muster roll for May 1781; dated Garrison, West Point; reported on command at Dobb's Ferry; also, muster roll for June 1781, dated Phillipsborough; reported on command with Col. Scammell; also, muster rolls of Aug. and Sept. 1781, dated at Camp at Peekskill; also, muster rolls for Oct. and Nov. 1781, Jan. to Mar. 1782, dated Quarters, York Hutts; reported on fatigue duty in Oct. and Nov. 1781. A pensioner. (Listed both as Loveman and Loveland.)

MORLEY, GEORGE. Receipt dated April 17, 1781, for bounty paid said Morley by Benjamin Hosley, on behalf of a class of the town of Greenfield, to serve in the Continental Army for the term of 3 years; also, descriptive list of men raised in Hampshire Co., to serve in the Continental Army, as returned by Noah Goodman, Supt.; age, 24 yrs.; stature,

5 ft., 10 ins.; complexion, light; hair, light; occupation, farmer; engaged for town of Greenfield, Mar. 30, 1781; term 3 years.

MORLEY, JOHN. Descriptive list of men raised to reinforce the Continental Army for the term of six months, agreeable to resolve of June 5, 1780, returned as received of Justin Ely, Commissioner, by Brig. Gen. John Glover, at Springfield, Aug. 12, 1780; age, 27 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 3 ins.; complexion, dark; engaged for town of Greenfield, arrived at Springfield, Aug. 10, 1780, marched to camp Aug. 12, 1780, under command of Ensign Boardman; also list of men raised for 6 months service and returned by Brig. Gen. Patterson as having passed muster, in a return dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 25, 1780. (Listed as Mauley and Moreley.)

MUNN, ELISHA. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; return for equipments (year not given, probably 1775); also, private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Samuel Brewer's regt.; pay abstract for mileage and travel allowance from place of discharge home; sworn to at Deerfield, Dec. 10, 1777; 108 miles; company served at Ticonderoga for 3 months from Sept. 1, 1777; also, private Capt. Enoch Chapin's Co., Col. Jacob Gerrish's regt. of guards; enlisted July 27, 1778, discharged Dec. 4, 1778; service 5 mos. 7 days; company detached from Hampshire Co. Militia to guard stores at Springfield and Brookfield for 6 months from July, 1778; roll dated at Springfield. A pensioner.

MUNN, JOHN. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted July 15, 1775; service 17 days; also, company receipt for wages for Sept. 1775, dated Camp at Prospect Hill; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated at Prospect Hill, Dec. 22, 1775; also, sergeant, Capt. Moses Harvey's Co., Col. Woodbridge's regt.; engaged Aug. 22, 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777; service 3 mos. 17 days at Saratoga, including 9 days (180 miles) travel home; regiment raised to reinforce Northern Army until last of Nov. 1777.

MUNN, NOAH. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted July 15, 1775; service 17 days; also, company receipt for wages for Sept. 1775, dated Camp at Prospect Hill; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Prospect Hill, Nov. 27, 1775; also, private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days; company marched on the alarm at Bennington of Aug. 14, 1777.

MUNN, SETH. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whit-

comb's regt.; company return (probably Oct. 1775); also, private, Capt. Peter Proctor's Co., Lieut. Col. Williams's regt.; enlisted July 19, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service 1 mo. 9 days travel (120 miles) home; company marched to reinforce Northern Army; also descriptive list of men raised to reinforce the Continental Army for the term of 6 months, agreeable to resolve of June 5, 1780, returned as received of Justin Ely, Commissioner, by Brig. Gen. John Glover at Springfield July 7, 1780; age, 25 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 11 ins.; complexion, dark; engaged for town of Northfield; arrived at Springfield July 5, 1780; marched to camp July 7, 1780, under command of Capt. Dix; also, list of men raised for 6 months service returned by Brig. Gen. Patterson as passing muster in a return dated Camp Totoway, Oct. 25, 1780; also, private, Capt. Samuel Flower's Co., Col. John Greateon's regt.; muster roll for July 1780; enlisted July 6, 1780; enlistment, 6 months; also, same Co. and regt.; muster roll for Aug. and Sept. 1780, dated Camp Orringtontown; also, Joseph Crocker's Co.; Col. Greateon's regt.; muster roll for Oct. 1780, dated Camp Totoway; also, same Co. and regt.; muster roll for Nov. and Dec. 1780, dated Camp West Point; reported on command at the Lines; also, pay roll for 6 months men raised by the town of Northfield for service in the Continental Army during 1780; marched from home July 4, 1780; discharged Jan. 9, 1781; service 6 mos., 14 days, including travel (160 miles) home.

NICHOLS, NATHANIEL. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days, on alarm at Bennington of Aug. 17, 1777.

RICE, BENJAMIN. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Leonard's regt.; service, 1 mo., 17 days; company raised Feb. 24, 1777, for service at Ticonderoga; also, Capt. Timothy Childs's (Greenfield) Co., Col. David Field's Regt.; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington of Aug. 14, 1777.

RICE, ENOS. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Wells's regt.; service 2 mos., 8 days, including travel home; company raised May 10, 1777 for service at Ticonderoga and was discharged July 8, 1777. (Listed as Rice and Rise.)

SPRAGUE, JONATHAN. Private, Capt. Benj. Phillips's Co., Col. Elisha Porter's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; enlisted July 10, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service 28 days in Northern Department, including travel home (100 miles.)

STOUGHTON, SAMUEL. Lieutenant, Capt. Timothy Childs's (3d) Co., Col. David Field's regt. (5th Hampshire Co.) of Mass. Militia; list

of officers chosen agreeably to order of Council of Feb. 14, 1776, dated Deerfield April 22, 1776; ordered in Council May 3, 1776 that said officers be commissioned; reported commissioned May 3, 1776; also, 2nd Lieutenant, Capt. Abel Dinsmore's Co., Col. Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge's regt.; engaged Aug. 17, 1777; discharged Oct. 20, 1777; service 2 mos., 8 days, including 4 days (70 miles) travel home; company raised to serve with Northern Army until Nov. 30, 1777; roll sworn to in Hampshire Co.

WEBSTER, ASAHIEL. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Porter's regt.; marched from home July 9, 1777; enlisted July 10, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service, 38 days including travel (80 miles) home; company marched to reinforce Northern Army after the evacuation of Ticonderoga; roll sworn to at Deerfield; also, Capt. James Walworth's Co., Col. Elisha Porter's regt. (Hampshire Co.); enlisted July 22, 1779; discharged Aug. 27, 1779; service 1 mo. 11 days at New London, Conn., including 6 days travel home; roll sworn to at Deerfield.

WRISLEY, DAVID. Private, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington Aug. 14, 1777.

WRISLEY, ELEAZER. (Same service record as David Wrisley.)

WRISLEY, ELIJAH. Private, Capt. Eldad Wright's Co., of Minutemen, Col. Samuel Williams's regt., which marched April 20, 1775 in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775 from Northfield and Warwick to Cambridge; service 14 days; also, private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted May 1, 1775; service 3 mos., 8 days; also, Sergeant, Capt. Wells's Co., Col. Whitcomb's regt.; company receipt for wages for Sept. 1775, dated Camp at Prospect Hill; also, Capt. Timothy Childs's (Greenfield) Co., Col. David Field's regt.; service 4 days on alarm at Bennington of Aug. 14, 1777; also, Capt. John Wells's Co., of Hampshire Co. Militia; enlisted Sept. 22, 1777; discharged Oct. 23, 1777; service, 1 mo., 2 days under Col. David Wells in Northern Department; also, descriptive list dated Deerfield July 24, 1780 of men detached from Hampshire Co. Militia agreeable to resolve of June 22, 1780 and returned by Maj. David Dickinson as mustered by him by order of Lieut. Col. David Wells; age, 22 yrs.; stature, 5 ft., 9 ins.; complexion, dark; hair, dark; eyes, dark; engaged for town of Bernardston; term 3 months; also, Sergeant, Capt. Isaac Newton's Co., Col. S. Murray's regt.; engaged July 13, 1780; discharged Oct. 10, 1780; service 3 mos., 7 days, including 9 days (172 miles) travel home; regiment raised in Hampshire Co. to reinforce Continental Army for 3 months. (Wrisley: Listed also as Risle, Risley, Rissle.)

The following Revolutionary War soldiers from other towns have been residents of Gill:

ALLEN, APOLLOS. Of Greenfield at the time of his service, but lived for a number of years in Gill before removing to New York State in 1797. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt., company return (probably Oct. 1775). Order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Prospect Hill, Dec. 22, 1775; also, Capt. Saml Taylor's Co., Col. Nicholas Dykes's regt.; pay abstract for travel allowance dated Sept. 17, 1776. Also, pay for same, dated Nov. 28, 1776, Dorchester Heights; also, Capt. Timothy Childs's Co., Col. David Field's regt.; enlisted Aug. 14, 1777; discharged Aug. 18, 1777, service 4 days on an alarm at Bennington; also descriptive list of enlisted men detached from 3d and 10th Co.'s, 5th Hampshire Co. regt., as returned by Maj. David Dickinson, dated July 24, 1780, at Deerfield; age 23 yrs., stature 5 ft., 11 ins., complexion light, hair light, eyes light, residence Greenfield; joined Capt. Isaac Newton's Co., Col. S. Murray's (Hampshire Co.) regt., enlisted July 13, 1780, discharged Oct. 10, 1780, service 3 mos., 7 days, enlistment 3 mos.; Co. raised to reinforce Continental Army.

BALLARD, PHILIP. Of Montague at time of service. He was present at the battle of Bunker Hill, but his company was not called into action. A Revolutionary War pensioner. Private, Capt. Oliver's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; receipt for advance pay dated Charlestown June 27, 1775; enlisted May 5, 1775; service 3 mos. 4 days; also, Sergeant; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Lenox, Oct. 8, 1776.

BATES, JACOB. A native of Thompson, Conn.; his obituary notice states he was in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and that he also served in the navy for three years during the war.

CLARK, DANIEL. Of Colrain at the time of service. He spent the last years of his life in Gill at the home of his son, John. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Porter's regt.; marched from home July 9, 1777; enlisted July 10, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service, 38 days, travel included; company marched to reinforce Northern Army after the evacuation of Ticonderoga; roll sworn to at Deerfield; also, Capt. Hugh McClellan's Co., Col. David Wells's regt.; enlisted Sept. 22, 1777; discharged Oct. 18, 1777; service, 1 mo., 2 days, travel included.

CLARK, WILLIAM. A native of Newton, but a resident of Barre (formerly Hutchinson) at the time of service. He had been a member of the State Militia previously, and had served at Crown Point and Fort George

in 1762; was wounded in the hand by a musket ball in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and in 1776 marched to New Jersey with Col. Sparhawk's regt., where he served for three months. A Revolutionary War pensioner. He came to Gill from New Salem in 1801. Sergeant, Capt. John Black's Co., Col. Jonathan Brewer's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775, enlisted Apr. 20, 1775; service 3 mos., 13 days; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Camp at Prospect Hill, Oct. 26, 1775; also, Adjutant 7th Worcester Co. regt., commissioned June 5, 1776; also, 2nd Lieutenant Capt. William Henry's (10th) Co., Col. Nathan Sparhawk's (7th Worcester Co.) regt.; list of officers of Mass. Militia dated Barre, May 5, 1777; commissioned May 14, 1777; also, as private in Capt. Benjamin Nye's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to reinforce army under Gen. Stark at Bennington; enlisted Aug. 21, 1777; discharged Aug. 25, 1777; service 10 days, travel included.

CORY, FRANCIS. Of Shutesbury at time of service. A pensioner. Private, Capt. Ebenezer Goodall's Co., of Minute-men, Col. Woodbridge's regt., which marched on alarm of April 19, 1775; service 7 days; also, Capt. John King's Co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's (25th) regt.; receipt for advance pay dated Cambridge, June 22, 1775; also, private, same Co. and regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted April 26, 1775; service 3 mos., 13 days; also, company return dated Camp at Cambridge, Sept. 29, 1775; also, for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Camp at Prospect Hill, Oct. 23, 1775; also, Capt. William Warner's Co., Col. Thomas Marshall's regt.; muster roll for Jan. 1779, dated West Point; enlisted from Hampshire Co. for term of 9 months from the time of their arrival at Fishkill, July 5, 1778, return received of Jonathan Warner, Commissioner, by Brig. Gen. J. Glover, at Fort Arnold, July 8, 1778; also, descriptive list of enlisted men dated Warwick, Capt. Seth Pierce's Co., Col. Seth Murray's detachment from 6th Hampshire Co., regt.; age, 36; stature, 5 ft. 7 ins.; complexion, dark; residence, Shutesbury; rank, private; mustered July 18, 1780; enlistment, 3 months from time of arrival at Claverack. (Listed as Corey and Cory.)

DAVIS, JOSEPH. A native of Lebanon, Conn., and a resident of Guilford, Vt., at the time of service. He was a brother-in-law of Lieut. Reuben Shattuck, and settled in Gill about 1810. Wounded in service, and a Revolutionary War pensioner. Served three months as a private in 1776 in Capt. Warriner's Vermont Co., under Maj. Shepardson, in vicinity of Ticonderoga; then served one month as a private in Capt. Childs's Co., enlisted Apr. 1777 at Bernardston; served three months as a musician in Capt. Moses Harvey's Co., Col. Wells's Mass. regt.; served one month July-Aug. 1777 in Maj. Fletcher's Vermont Rangers for his

brother, David. In Sept. 1777, while visiting relatives in Lebanon, Conn., enlisted and served one month as private in Capt. Vaughn's Connecticut Co., at Providence, R. I.; enlisted in May 1778 and served 8 months as private in Capt. Job Alvord's Co., Col. William Shepardson's Mass. regt.; was at Valley Forge and Monmouth, and in Gen. Sullivan's Rhode Island expedition.

GOODRICH, GEORGE. Of Glastonbury, Conn. at time of service. Marched on alarm from Lexington; service 4 days. Settled in Gill. (Records incomplete.)

GREEN, BENJAMIN. Of Bernardston at time of service. Private, Capt. Isaac Newton's Co., Col. S. Murray's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; enlisted July 13, 1780; discharged Oct. 10, 1780; service 3 mos., 7 days, travel included; company raised to reinforce Continental Army for 3 months.

GREEN, JEPHTAH. Of West Springfield at time of service. Private, Capt. John Morgan's Co., Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's regt.; enlisted Aug. 24, 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777; service 3 mos., 13 days, travel included; in Northern Department.

HASTINGS, OLIVER. Of Greenfield at time of service. Settled in Gill in 1818. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's regt.; company return (probably Oct. 1775). (Listed as Hastings.)

HOWE, ASA. Of Petersham at time of service. Private, Capt. Wing Spooner's Co., Col. Nathan Sparhawk's regt.; enlisted Aug. 21, 1777; travel to camp and home 180 miles, service at 20 miles per day, 9 days; company marched from Petersham Aug. 21, 1777, to reinforce army under Gen. Stark; roll dated Petersham; also, Capt. Samuel Hubbard's Co., Col. Job Cushing's regt.; enlisted Sept. 5, 1777; discharged Nov. 29, 1777; service 3 mos., 2 days in Northern Department, including 7 days (140 miles) travel home.

MASON, PETER. Pierre Masson, a French soldier who came over with Lafayette. Remained in America and settled first in Connecticut; later removed to Shelburne and to Gill. Father-in-law of Dr. Joel Lyons and Harris Janes.

RICHARDS, EDWARD. Private, Capt. George Kimball's (Lunenburg) Co., which marched April 20, 1775 in response to the alarm of April 19; service 11 days. Came to Gill in 1795; died here in 1819.

RICHARDS, DR. WILLIAM. Of Hartford, Conn., at time of service. Came to Gill from Sunderland in 1809, and died here in 1825. With Second Battalion, Wadsworth's Brigade, raised June 1776 to reinforce Wash-

ington at New York; served at the Brooklyn front just before and during the battle of Long Island; also, with main army at White Plains; served as Surgeon's mate to Dr. Conant, Chief Surgeon.

SCOTT, MOSES. Of Glastonbury, Conn., at time of service. Marched on alarm from Lexington; service 4 days. (Records incomplete.)

SHATTUCK, REUBEN. Of Leyden at time of service. Private, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Samuel Williams's regt. of Minutemen which marched April 20, 1775 from Greenfield in response to the alarm of April 19; left place of rendezvous May 1, 1775; service 10 days; reported enlisted into army; also, 3d Corporal, Capt. Agrippa Wells's Co., Col. Asa Whitcomb's (23d) regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted May 1, 1775; service 3 mos., 8 days; also, company receipt for wages for Sept. 1775, dated Camp at Prospect Hill; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Prospect Hill, Dec. 22, 1775; also, Sergeant, Capt. Amasa Sheldon's Co., Col. Elisha Porter's regt.; engaged July 10, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service 1 mo., 8 days, on expedition to Northern Department, including travel (100 miles) home; also, 2nd Lieutenant, Capt. James Walworth's Co., 5th Hampshire Co. regt. of Mass. Militia commanded by Lieut. Col. David Wells; list of officers; commissioned Nov. 18, 1779.

SIMONS, JOSEPH. Of Enfield, Conn., at time of service. Enlisted Oct. 7, 1778; discharged Jan. 1, 1779; served under Capt. John Harmon; pensioned in New York State for Connecticut service.

TENNEY, GIDEON. Of Northborough at time of service. Lived with his son, John A. Tenney, in Gill for many years previous to his death, June 3, 1843, in Cummington while on a visit to a daughter. Private, Capt. Manassah Sawyer's Co., Col. Nicholas Dykes's regt.; pay abstract for travel allowance home, etc., dated Dorchester Heights Nov. 30, 1776, said Tenney credited with allowance for 2 days (37 miles) travel; private, Capt. Moses Harrington's Co., Col. Dykes's regt.; muster for Dec. 1776-Feb. 1777; credited to town of Northborough; enlisted Dec. 1776; regiment raised to serve until March 1, 1777; private, Capt. Benjamin Nye's Co., Col. Nathan Sparhawk's regt.; enlisted Aug. 21, 1777; discharged Aug. 25, 1777; service 10 days, including travel (96 miles) home; company marched Aug. 21, 1777 to reinforce army under Gen. Stark at Bennington. (Listed as Tenney, Tinne, and Tinney.)

WELLMAN, ADAM. Of Wrentham at time of service. Matross, Capt. Perez Cushing's Co., pay abstract for mileage from home to camp at Boston where company joined Col. Thomas Crafts's (Artillery) regt.;

sworn at Boston, Dec. 7, 1776; also, gunner, Capt. Cushing's (9th) Co., Col. Crafts's (Artillery) regt.; joined regiment Nov. 9, 1776; service to Feb. 1, 1777, 2 mos., 21 days; also, service from Feb. 1, 1777 to May 8, 1777, 3 mos., 7 days; also, Corporal, Capt. Samuel Cowell's Co., Col. Haws's regt.; served between July 26, 1778 and Aug. 26, 1778, 22 days at Rhode Island; roll sworn to at Wrentham.

SHAYS'S REBELLION

Massachusetts at the close of the Revolutionary War was burdened with huge debts, and the general economic situation was in a chaotic condition. There was no alternative to high taxation though trade was interrupted and agriculture was at a standstill. Actual money was so scarce that many in the rural areas had none at all. A poor man in those days had little protection against stubborn creditors, as no bankruptcy laws existed, and the debtor's land and stock could be taken to the amount of any debt for which the creditor received judgment, or he could be cast into jail if his assets were insufficient.

Feeling ran high against the profiteers and the politicians. This was particularly true in the country where the pinch was felt hardest by the farmers who had formed the backbone of the Revolutionary soldiery. Soldiers returned to their homes, after suffering the privations of long service in the fight for freedom, to find their farms run down, their families heavily in debt, and interest rates so exorbitant as to be prohibitive. Men of high standing in communities, whose reputations were unassailable, became goaded to desperation, and a movement known as Shays's Rebellion gathered strength under the leadership of Daniel Shays, with the object of ousting the political powers at the governmental helm of the state.

Hampshire County furnished many sympathizers with Daniel Shays's movement, and activities to promote his undertaking were begun. Shays's chief representative in this vicinity was Jason Parmenter of Bernardston. Obed Foote, a native of Connecticut whose wife was related to the Websters, was a prime mover in Gill, and a number from Gill enlisted in the rebel army. When Shays ordered one of his companies to make the ill-advised attack on the arsenal at Springfield, two men from Gill, Asahel Webster, Jr., and Ezekiel Root, were killed during the fighting.

A tragic aftermath of the attack in Springfield occurred on Gill soil when officers of the law on their way to Bernardston to arrest Jason Parmenter by chance met him just below the Bernardston line, and one of the party, Jacob Walker of Whately, was shot and killed by Parmenter.

The following account covering this killing appeared in the February 28, 1787 issue of the "Hampshire Gazette:"

"On the evening of the 17th instant, Capt. James Lyman and Mr. Whitney, being in a sleigh on the road to Barnardstown, accompanied with five light-horsemen, one of Mr. Whitney's horses failing, Mr. Walker, one of the horsemen, dismounted and put his horse into the sleigh, stepped in himself, and the whole went on (the remaining four horsemen being in the rear) until met by another sleigh—the horses meeting full butt against each other. Jason Parmater cries 'who comes there'—one of the horsemen says 'turn out,' upon which Parmater cries 'who are ye,' then he, with Moses Dickinson and Simeon Mallery, sprang out of their sleigh with their guns and gave the word 'fire'— Mr. Whitney cried 'don't fire, don't fire.' Two of Parmater's party snapped their pieces at Capt. Lyman and Mr. Whitney, who perceiving the imminent danger they were in, and being without firearms, called for the assistance of the horsemen. Mr. Walker got out of Mr. Whitney's sleigh and passed to the back of Parmater's—the horsemen dismounted (the snow being near three feet deep prevented their passing the sleighs on horseback) and ran to their assistance—Parmater and Mr. Walker fired—the latter fell just as the horsemen came up. Parmater and his party immediately took to the bush and under cover of the bushes snapped two pieces at Dr. Durant (he being but a small distance from them). It is supposed that Mr. Walker discharged his pistol as he fell, from the circumstances—had he fired first, Parmater indubitably would have been wounded; the report of their pieces was so nigh together that neither Capt. Lyman, Mr. Whitney nor the gentlemen of the horse, could determine which was first, though but a few feet distance from either—Parmater's party after snapping their pieces from behind the bush, fled with precipitation. Capt. Lyman, Mr. Whitney and the gentlemen of the horse, thought it not prudent to leave their horses and pursue them, as they were in a town where several of the inhabitants being disaffected and inveterate against the friends of the government, might rally a party and cut off their retreat, but immediately turned their attention toward their wounded and bleeding friend—took him up, put him into a sleigh and carried him to Mr. Whitney's in Northfield, where upon examination his wounds were found to be mortal; he received the information from the surgeon with that serenity and fortitude becoming a 'soldier' and a 'Christian.' He lived about an hour after he was wounded.

"On Sunday the 18th inst., Capt. Buffinton, with his troop of light-horse, and a company of infantry (provided with snowshoes)

under the command of Capt. James Lyman, went in pursuit of the culprits, took their track, and in hunting eight or ten miles, came up with and made them, with several others, prisoners."

Jason Parmenter was tried at Northampton, convicted of treason and murder, and sentenced to be hanged the 24th of May 1787, but was later given a reprieve until June the 21st. On that date a great crowd gathered at Northampton to witness the execution of Parmenter and another condemned Shaysite, and not until the two had ascended the scaffold did the sheriff in charge, who all the time had a further reprieve from the governor in his pocket, announce the proclamation. Soon afterward John Hancock became governor of Massachusetts, and on September 12, 1787, he signed a full pardon for both.

Shays's Rebellion ended ignominiously. It was conceived by men whose motives were sincere, but who had not yet grasped the complete and orderly processes of representative democratic government. However, it awoke the state to the need of broader justice for the citizens, and Massachusetts became a pioneer in the enactment of laws for the protection of individual rights.

WAR OF 1812

When the Governor of Massachusetts called for troops to defend Boston during the War of 1812, the Town of Gill and the Town of Charlemont were the only towns in Franklin County to send out volunteers.

Those from Gill were Zelotes Ballard as a musician and the following as privates: Alvah Ballard, Oren Ballard, John W. Bissell, Oliver Bissell, Onesimus Hastings, Oralana Hosley, Seth Munn, Walter Smith, Asahel Stanhope, Ripley Walker, Samuel Walker, and Elijah Wrisley, Jr. They served at Boston under Captain David Strickland of Greenfield from September 13 to November 7, 1814.

Seth Cary, Jr., Luke G. Hosley, Obed Morgan, John Munn, and Roswell Munn, as well as others of whom the town may have no record, were soldiers in this war.

Dr. Preston acted as one of the physicians and surgeons.

MEXICAN WAR

Henry Rufus Scott appears to have been the only man from Gill to have given service in the Mexican War.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The following item is from the Town Records:

June 15, 1861, Saturday. The Flag of our Union, beautifully made and proportioned, raised this day in the Park opposite the Congregational Church.

Day fine; about two hundred of the people of both sexes present, and a gentle breeze to shake out the folds of the flag in fine style. Cheers, guns, music and speaking marked the occasion.

Height of flag-staff, 76 ft. Stick furnished by Nelson Burrows, scored by Canning, hewed by Henry R. Scott.

The flag appears to have been made by the ladies of Gill, and among those who were volunteers in the project were Mrs. Bliss, Mrs. Canning, Mrs. Chapin, Mrs. Loring, Mrs. Merrick, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Purple, Mrs. Slate, Mrs. Stowell, Mrs. Stratton, and the Misses M. Deane and L. Stoughton.

The following item is from the Town Records:

Aug. 8, 1862. At 6 o'clock this morning, the Gill volunteers—the quota, ten in number, being full—were formed in line in front of the Congregational meetinghouse, and after a prayer by Rev. Mr. Stowell, and some remarks by others, departed for Camp Cameron.

Their names are as follows: Francis Williams, John Newton, Nicholas Paulus, Wm. C. Marvel, James Knowlton, John Callaghan, Nathan Smith, F. W. Potter, George Harris and Alex C. Sheldon. Of this number, James Knowlton and A. C. Sheldon were returned from camp.

The following men from Gill enlisted as members of the quotas drafted from the town:

ATHERTON, RALPH L. Enlisted 21 June 1861; wounded 31 May 1862, Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged 8 July 1862. Co. G, 10th Regt.

ATHERTON, WILLIAM B. Enlisted 21 June 1861; wounded 31 May 1862, Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged 4 Sept. 1862. Co. G, 10th Regt.

BILLINGS, CHARLES M. Enlisted 2 Oct. 1862; discharged 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt. Also served in Co. C, 1st N. H. Cav.

BISHOP, ANSON J. Enlisted 24 Mar. 1864; taken prisoner 25 Mar. 1865, Ft. Stedman, Va.; exchanged 1 Apr. 1865; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. C, 57th Regt.

CALLAGHAN, JOHN. Enlisted 11 Aug. 1862; taken prisoner 16 May 1864, Drury's Bluff, Va.; exchanged 19 Dec. 1864; discharged 26 June 1865. Co. C, 37th Regt.

CARTER, DENNIS. Enlisted 28 Sept. 1861; died 27 Dec. 1862, Annapolis Md. Co. C, 27th Regt.

COOLIDGE, RUFUS A. Enlisted 8 Aug. 1864; discharged 4 June 1865. Co. F, 1st Heavy Art.

DEANE, HENRY A. Enlisted 2 Oct. 1862; discharged 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt.

DELVY, JOHN C. Enlisted 1 Oct. 1861; wounded 14 Mar. 1862, Newbern, N. C.; discharged 27 Mar. 1863. Co. C, 27th Regt.

DENIO, JOSEPH. Enlisted 10 Mar. 1864; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. I, 57th Regt.

ELLIS, JAMES W. Enlisted 12 Apr. 1864; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. I, 57th Regt.

FAIRMAN, ELLSWORTH C. Enlisted 2 Oct. 1862; discharged 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt.

GARY, JAMES H. Enlisted 25 Sept. 1861; discharged 11 Apr. 1863 at Washington, D. C., because of wounds. Co. F, 1st Cav.

HALE, ALLEN W. Enlisted 19 Aug. 1861; wounded 1 Sept. 1862, Chantilly, Va.; discharged 1 Apr. 1863. Co. I, 21st Regt.

HALE, GEORGE B. Enlisted 2 Oct. 1862; discharged as Corporal 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt.

HALE, JOHN W. Enlisted in Nov. 1861; died 19 Aug. 1863 of yellow fever, Algiers, La.

HALE, OSCAR. Enlisted 15 May 1861; wounded and taken prisoner 18 May 1864; confined in Andersonville and Florence, S. C.; exchanged 26 Feb. 1865; died near Wilmington, Del., 2 Mar. 1865. Co. G, 10th Regt.

HARRIS, GEORGE W. Enlisted 9 Aug. 1862; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. H, 10th Regt.

HARRIS, WARD S. Enlisted 28 Dec. 1864; mustered out 30 June 1865. Co. C, 1st Bat. Mass. Vol. Cavalry.

HOWLAND, DWIGHT H. Enlisted 21 Sept. 1861; Co. C, 27th Regt.; transferred 13 Aug. 1864 to 38th Regt. as Quartermaster Sergeant; discharged for disability, 8 July 1865.

KNOWLTON, JAMES W. Enlisted 2 Oct. 1862; discharged 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt.

LANDER, CHARLES W. Enlisted 29 Aug. 1864; discharged 26 June 1865. Co. H, 2nd Heavy Art.

LEGROVE, ADOLPHUS. Enlisted 10 Mar. 1864; wounded 12 May 1864, Spotsylvania, Va.; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. I, 57th Regt.

MARVEL, WILLIAM C. Enlisted 9 Aug. 1862; wounded 3 May 1863, Salem Heights; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. G, 10th Regt.

NEWTON, JOHN 2ND. Enlisted 7 Aug. 1862; discharged 24 Jan. 1863. 10th Regt., unassigned.

PAULUS, NICHOLAS. Enlisted 9 Aug. 1862, Co. C, 10th Regt.; transferred 7 Sept. 1863 to 1st Bat. V.R.C.; discharged 23 June 1864.

PHILLIPS, MOSES B. Enlisted 19 Aug. 1861; discharged for disability 12 July 1862. Co. I, 21st Regt.

PIKE, WILLIAM. Enlisted 6 Apr. 1864; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. K, 57th Regt. Also served in 4th Vermont Regt.

POTTER, FREDERICK W. Enlisted 11 Aug. 1862; wounded 12 May 1864, Spotsylvania, Va.; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. G, 10th Regt.

SANCOMB, DAVID. Enlisted 10 Mar. 1864; killed 24 May 1864, North Anna River, Va. Co. I, 57th Regt.

SCOTT, HENRY R. Enlisted 11 Sept. 1861; leg fractured by a horse Dec. 1861; discharged 7 Nov. 1864. Co. F, 1st Vol. Cav.

SCOTT, WILLIAM H. Enlisted 6 Sept. 1861; wounded at Salem Heights and at Wilderness; discharged 10 Sept. 1864. Co. G, 10th Regt.

SHELDON, ALEXANDER C. Enlisted 2 Sept. 1862; discharged for disability 7 Dec. 1863. Co. H, 10th Regt.

SMITH, NATHAN W. Enlisted 7 Aug. 1862; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. H, 10th Regt.

SMITH, WILLIAM R. Enlisted 18 May 1861; wounded 31 May 1862, Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged 5 Nov. 1862 for disability. Co. G, 10th Regt.

WHITE, HARRISON H. Enlisted 13 Sept. 1862; taken prisoner 8 Mar. 1865, South West Creek, N. C.; exchanged 1 Apr. 1865; discharged 16 June 1865. Co. C, 27th Regt.

WILLIAMS, FRANCIS N. Enlisted 8 Aug. 1862; wounded at Salem Heights and at Spotsylvania; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. C, 10th Regt.

The enlistments of the following nonresidents were credited to quotas from the Town of Gill:

BARRELL, LUCAS. Enlisted 8 Mar. 1865; 1st N. C. Art.

BULLIS, JABEZ. Enlisted 18 Feb. 1864; discharged 30 July 1865. Co. C, 57th Regt.

CASE, DANIEL. Enlisted 13 Jan. 1865; discharged 19 May 1865. Co. K, 24th Regt.

CLAPP, HERMAN. Enlisted 31 Dec. 1864; discharged 28 Sept. 1865. Co. L, 3rd Cav.

EVERETT, EDWARD J. Enlisted 2 Jan. 1865; Co. L, 3rd Cav.; discharged 28 Sept. 1865 as Quartermaster Sergeant Co. E; commissioned 2nd Lieutenant 5 Oct. 1865; not mustered in.

O'DONNELL, THOMAS. Enlisted 31 Aug. 1864, 2nd Cav.; discharged 18 May 1865.

TIERNEY, DAVID F. Enlisted 2 Sept. 1864; discharged 26 May 1865. Co. D, 2nd Cav.

Among the natives of Gill who enlisted for other towns were the following:

BATES, HENRY C. Enlisted 31 May 1861; wounded 3 May 1863, Salem Heights; discharged 28 June 1864. Co. K, 10th Regt.

BATTLE, RICHARD D. Enlisted 18 Oct. 1861; killed 13 July 1863, Bayou La Fourche, La. Co. E, 30th Regt.

BRAINARD, FREDERICK. Ohio Regt.; killed 9 May 1864, Rock Face Ridge, Ga.

FRENCH, GEORGE W. Enlisted 21 May 1861, Co. I, 4th Vermont Regt.; reenlisted 15 Dec. 1863; wounded 5 May 1864; taken prisoner 23 June 1864; paroled 13 Dec. 1864; transferred to Co. F, 25 Feb. 1865; mustered out 13 July 1865.

JANES, EUGENE A. Died in service, St. Louis, Mo., 14 Oct. 1861.

LANDER, GEORGE M. Enlisted 2 Jan. 1864; killed 31 May 1864, Gaines Mills, Va. Co. K, 21st Regt.

LEE, FRANK W. Enlisted 21 June 1861; wounded 31 May 1862, Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged for disability 19 Nov. 1862. Co. C, 10th Regt.

LYONS, HATSEL P. Enlisted 9 Sept. 1862, Co. A, 52nd Regt.; transferred to 2nd Heavy Art.; discharged 3 Sept. 1865 as Corporal.

PHILLIPS, NEWTON. Enlisted 9 Sept. 1862; discharged 14 Aug. 1863. Co. A, 52nd Regt.

SCOTT, DWIGHT R. Enlisted 6 Sept. 1861; discharged 10 Sept. 1864. Co. C, 10th Regt.

SCOTT, FRANCIS A. Enlisted 5 Sept. 1861. Capt. Day found him too old for service and sent him home. His discharge papers went astray and he is listed as having deserted 25 Oct. 1861. Co. G, 10th Regt. He had three sons in service.

SCOTT, LEWIS H. Enlisted 18 May 1861; wounded 1 July 1862, Malvern Hill; discharged for disability 28 Aug. 1862. Co. G, 10th Regt.

STRATTON, BENJAMIN F. Enlisted 30 Aug. 1862; died 1 May 1863 in General Hospital, Baton Rouge, La. Co. A, 50th Regt.

Many G.A.R. veterans have been residents in Gill. The following are among those whose stay was more than temporary:

BICKFORD, SYLVESTER G. Co. E, 11th Vermont Regt.

BURNHAM, ROSWELL. Co. E, 11th Vermont Regt.

FIELD, ALBERT A. Enlisted 18 May 1861; discharged 1 July 1864, Co. G, 10th Regt.; reenlisted 31 Dec. 1864; discharged 28 Sept. 1865. Co. F, 10th Regt.

HAMILTON, GEORGE W. Enlisted 30 Dec. 1863; discharged 14 July 1865 as Sergeant. Co. A, 58th Regt.

HASTINGS, HENRY A. Enlisted 6 Sept. 1861; discharged 10 Sept. 1864. Co. E, 10th Regt.

LOCKE, RUSH. Enlisted 18 Aug. 1862, Co. I. 12th Vermont Regt.; mustered out 14 July 1863.

LOVELAND, HENRY W. Enlisted 27 Sept. 1861; discharged 27 Sept. 1864. Co. C, 27th Regt.

MORRISON, BENJAMIN R. Enlisted 7 Mar. 1862; discharged for disability 2 May 1862. Co. G, 10th Regt.

PHILLIPS, ARTHUR C. Enlisted 9 Sept. 1862, Co. A. 52nd Regt.; transferred to Co. G, 4th Heavy Art.; discharged 17 June 1865.

POTTER, JAMES W. Enlisted 9 Aug. 1862; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. G, 10th Regt.

ROCKWOOD, ELIHU R. Enlisted 18 May 1861, Co. G, 10th Regt.; commissioned 1st Lieut., 23 Aug. 1864; discharged 17 June 1865.

SMITH, ALBERT. Enlisted 8 Aug. 1862; wounded 5 May 1864 at Wilderness; discharged 1 July 1864. Co. G, 10th Regt.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

George Blackmer, a member of Company L, was the only man from Gill to give service in this war. With his company, he went through the Cuban Campaign.

WORLD WAR I

The following men from Gill served in World War I:

Robert Baker	William Lynde	Earl D. Shebell
Blake Barnes	Thomas Marshall	Louis E. Smith
Clarence Chute	Julian Martindale	George Stanton
William Connelly	★ Hector F. Munn	Philip Stoughton
Edwin Dascomb	Philip Nichols	Edward Tibbetts
Edward Fleming	Arthur Pollard	Arthur Tuttle
Harold Greene	Walter Pollard	Lewis Watson
Oliver Greene	Milton D. Proctor	Frederick Willis
Emmanuel Hocking	Charles Schauwecker	Carl Willman
S. Fred Kerslake, Jr.	Fred Schauwecker	Louis Zimmerman
A. J. Krasharian	James Schauwecker	Walter Zimmerman

WORLD WAR II

The following men and women from Gill served their Country in World War II:

Harold Baker	Herbert Greene	Thomas Murley
John Baranowski	Winfred Greene	Lawrence Nadeau
John Bassett	Harold Hastings	Frank Niedbala
Glen Battles	Donald Hayden	Joseph Niedbala
Richard Birdsall	Thomas Kidder	Walter Niedbala
Clesson Blake	Kenneth Kingsbury	Edwin G. Nixon
★ Eliwyn Bogue	William Kingsbury	Frederick Pelser
Alwyn Brown	Ernest Knowlton	Frederick Perry
Donald Brown	Anthony Krejmas	Lowell Perry
Kenneth Brown	Henry Krejmas	Robert Perry
Jervis W. Burdick, Jr.	John Krejmas	Harold Pervere
Kenneth Clark	Joseph Krejmas	★ Gordon Pfersick
Charles Cocking, Jr.	★ Stephen Krejmas	Joseph Pluta
Grove W. Deming, Jr.	Alfred Lamoureux	Edward Pogoda
Thomas Donovan	Alton H. LeVitre	Joseph Pogoda
Stanley Duda	Earle J. Lockhart	Louis Pogoda
William DuMont	Harold Long	Gordon R. Pyper
Marion Elmer	James Marble	Lois J. Pyper
Donald Fillebrown	Richard Marble	Earle D. Remillard
Albert Fish	Harry E. Mathieu	Kenneth A. Remillard
Arthur Fortin, Jr.	Theodore Maziarz	Paul N. Remillard
Norman Fortin	Wilfred Mayrand	Ramona L. Remillard
Edgar Freeman	William J. McComb	George R. Richason, Jr.
Andrew Gusan	Fred S. McVeigh	John B. Rittall
John Gusan	Bennett Meyers	Bernard Rosewarne

Carl Schacht
Ralph Schacht
Paul Schatz
William Sears
Charles D. Shebell
James A. Shebell
Philip H. Shebell
Frederick Simard
Charles Sliva
Stanley Sliva
Carolyn L. Smith
Earle M. Smith
Edward Smith

Eugene Sobolewski
John Sobolewski
Bolic Sokolowski
Charles Sokolowski
Edward Sokolowski
Stanley Sokolowski
Walter Sokolowski
David E. Stevens, Jr.
Robert D. Stoughton
Robert Sumner
Charles Thompson
Joseph Thompson
William A. Tibbetts

★ Philip G. Tuttle
Walter Vassar
Harold E. Voetsch
Harris Ward
Malcolm Ware
Paul Warren
Roswell Warren
Edward Wasielewski
Joseph Wasielewski
Milton E. Wilde
Ernest V. Yukl
Frank W. Zak
Mary J. Zak

Chapter 27

TOWN MEMORABILIA

The following items, unless otherwise noted, have been copied from the Greenfield and Turners Falls newspapers:

Dec. 17, 1793. This being the day on which the Act of Incorporation was read to the Town of Gill, I attended & preached from Ps. 144 ult. (From Rev. Roger Newton's Diary.)

Nov. 4, 1794. STOP THIEF. Stolen from the subscriber a quantity of tow cloth by a straggling man who calls his name McClane; is about five and an half feet high, light complexion, light grey eyes, and short hair, tho commonly tied — He had on a light coloured short coat, home made blue jacket and striped nankeen overalls and a naped hat half worn out — He is a comb maker by trade and some times plays on a violin. Any person who will secure the said Thief in any jail in the County of Worcester or Hampshire, and give information to Deacon Hemmenway of Wendell or Mr. David Squires of Gill shall have a handsome reward for their trouble.

David Wrisley 3d, Gill.

Feb. 18, 1795. DAVID SQUIRES wishes to inform his customers that he is in want of cash and hopes those indebted to him by Book or Note will consider his inability of further obliging them without their assistance. Small debts will be received with as much satisfaction as they were contracted.

Ashes at eight pence per bushel will be received in payment for Accounts or Notes due; Also for State Tax No. 11, if delivered by the tenth of March next.

Feb. 18, 1795. Died at Gill, Abigail, wife of Mr. George Howland, in the 90th year of her age. A person that anticipated the happiness of Heaven by her piety; especially by her distinguished love to her fellow creatures. She lived nearly sixty three years with her husband who has entered the 90th year of his age, and is grandson of John Howland, the second male child born in this commonwealth, and the first born on land.

Apr. 9, 1795. SERENO FIELD respectfully informs the publick that he

now carries on the SADDLERS' BUSINESS in Gill where he flatters himself he shall be able to furnish any person who sees proper to apply to him, with every article in his line of business, agreeable to their wishes.

June 23, 1795. We learn that a Mr. Joseph Lee of Gill was drowned at Millers Falls on Tuesday last.

Sept. 26, 1796. 20 Dollars Reward — Stolen from off the subscriber's horse, standing at the door of Mr. Calvin Munn in Greenfield, on the 22nd inst. in the evening, one half of a pair of Saddle Bags, containing 180 Dollars in Cash and 2 pieces of India Cotton of about 14-1/2 yards each; among the cash was a piece of gold of 22/4 value. Whoever will secure the thief, so that he may be brought to justice and the property recovered, shall receive 20 Dollars reward, and all charges paid by Daniel Baker, Gill

Mar. 2, 1797. All persons indebted to the subscriber will do well by making payment immediately, as he is determined not to give them any further notice in this way.
Salmon Howland, Gill.

Mar. 3, 1797. To Be Sold. A Farm in Gill containing 167 acres of Land with a House and Barn, a young orchard, and mowing, ploughing and pasturing convenient for said Farm. For further particulars apply to the subscriber living on the premises.
Appolos Allen, Gill.

Oct. 6, 1798. David Squires advertises his services as a blacksmith in Gill.

Jan. 19, 1799. David Squires wishes to purchase a large quantity of ASHES for which eleven Pence per bushel will be given, if delivered at his Pot Ash works in Gill.

June 17, 1799. SAD ACCIDENT. Yesterday evening a boat in which was two sons of Mr. Benjamin Rice and a son of Mr. John Morley in coming from the Great Island, so-called, in Connecticut River a little above the dam at Greenfield Falls, was swept over by the rapidity of the current and one of the former and the latter were drowned. One of Mr. Rice's sons was saved by the activity of some persons present among whom were the fathers of the unfortunate children. Mr. Enos Rice was in the boat when it left the shore, but apprehending danger leapt out and gained the land. We think it remarkable that one should be saved when we are told the water falls at this place about 25 feet.

July 6, 1799. ANOTHER SAD WARNING TO FISHERMAN — About 11 o'clock Mr. George Darling of Gill was accidentally drowned. Mr. Darling was fishing with a scoop-net from Rocky Island in Montague Falls; the pole of his net accidentally struck a ladder which was placed against the dam above the rocks and occasioned his being instantly swept off, and all the exertions of the people present to save him were ineffectual. Mr. Darling was in the 39th year of his age, and has left a wife and seven children to lament his untimely death.

April 14, 1800. To be Sold — Cheap for Ready Pay. A pleasant situation for a mechanic of any kind; one acre and a half of land with a new House, Barn and young Orchard, lying one mile from Gill Meetinghouse on road to Northfield.

Ephraim Willson

Feb. 26, 1801. Found about one mile and a half west of Flagg's Tavern in Bernardston, a light coloured Lambskin Great Coat. The owner may have the same by applying to the subscriber and paying charges.

Daniel Corbit, Gill

Aug. 6, 1804. Wanted immediately, a number of able bodied men to work on the Canal at South Hadley. Inquire of Eli Lyons, Gill, or Capt. E. Scott & Co. at South Hadley.

Dec. 22, 1804. Found on the Stage road between Greenfield street and Bernardston, a bundle of Women's and Children's Clothes, and a box of letters, the greater part of which are directed to Syrena Cross.

William Clark

Aug. 16, 1805. Absolute necessity obliges the subscriber to call on all those indebted to him, whose accounts are of more than three months standing to make payment by the 15th of September next. All those who neglect this seasonable notice may expect to find their accounts lodged with Richard E. Newcomb for Collection.

Timothy Holton, Gill

Jan. 7, 1807. Melancholy Accident. On Wednesday the 7th inst., the wife of Mr. Walter D. Smith, Merchant in Berlin (Conn.) with two of his sisters, one, the wife of the Rev. Mr. Cannon of Gill (Mass.) and the only son of Mr. Smith, a child two years old, set out in a carriage to ride a small distance. They proceeded but a few rods before the horse taking a sudden fright, shifted his course and ran against a fence with such vio-

lence as to throw the child from the carriage. As he fell, the wheel ran directly over his head. Fortunately the carriage and harness were so much injured by the fence that the horse was immediately disengaged. To this circumstance of Providence the preservation of the ladies must be wholly ascribed. The child survived the disastrous event about 50 hours in great distress, and expired.

Jan. 27, 1807. Look Out For Liars as well as Swindlers. Those persons who have promised the subscriber their ASHES, are informed that he wants and expects to have every bushel they may have to spare — whatever the Vernon Liars (who have lately infested this vicinity) may say to the contrary notwithstanding.

James Gould, Gill

Feb. 21, 1807. WALTER BROWN requests all persons who are indebted to him to call and make settlement by the 10th of March next, for soon after that time, he calculates to be off with himself.

Feb. 23, 1807. The late heavy rains have caused unexampled freshets; much damage has been done in this vicinity; two bridges and two mill-dams at the mouth of Fall river.

Mar. 18, 1807. The late partnership in Gill under the name of GOODALE & CHASE, dissolved by mutual consent.

June 5, 1807. DROWNED. In the Connecticut River just above the dam at the head of the Great Falls on Friday last, Wheelock Mallard, son of Mr. Solomon Mallard, about 12 years of age. We learn that he sprang from a boat into the river, and it is supposed his feet stuck in the mud, as his body was erect in the water when found.

July 15, 1807. Jonathan Tuttle of Rowe advertises a farm in Gill of 100 acres on great road from Greenfield to Brattleboro, with house and cooper's shop, John Morley now living on the premises.

Jan. 21, 1809. Wanted immediately a Journeyman Joiner, for 8 months or a year, to whom good encouragement will be given.

Zeri Ewers, Gill

Apr. 21, 1809. The subscriber informs the public that he intends to carry on the business of STOCKING and repairing GUNS & PISTOLS at his shop near the Meetinghouse in Gill.

John Wrisley

Apr. 27, 1810. Found on the county road leading from Gill Meeting-house to Bernardston, A SILVER WATCH. The owner may have it again by proving property and paying charges.
Obed Wrisley

July 23, 1810. Ran away from the subscriber about the 13th inst., my son Adolphus, in the 16th year of his age. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting him on my account on penalty of the law.
Benjamin Horsley

Feb. 12, 1811. Elisha Munn advertises a farm of 100 acres in the North part of Gill adjoining the farm of Zephaniah Pitts.

Feb. 27, 1811. Partnership between Elijah Gould and James Gould conducting a General Store in Gill dissolved.

Sept. 23, 1811. Dorastus Holton advertises for a journeyman Shoemaker.

Apr. 8, 1813. Drowned — At the Falls in Montague, Dennis Lockery, aged 25. He was driven by the current over the great dam in a skiff while attempting to catch timber that was floating down the river. He was driven over the same dam about two years ago. (An Indian.)

Mar. 27, 1813. Died in Gill, Mr. Ebenezer Field, aged 68, who with 13 others, principally adults, have deceased in that place during the last month, and all except two, of the prevailing epidemic.

June 3, 1814. Died at Gill, Deacon Reuben Shattuck, aged 65 years. Society has lost in him a substantial friend, and the Church a father and benefactor.

June 16, 1815. Cash received of Solomon Smead Esq., on the complaint of Willis Phillips against Daniel Fisk of Deerfield, Edward Rawson Jr. of Montague, Asel Stebbins Jr. of Northfield, Jeremiah Andrus and Bela Rawson of Gill, and Fitch Bissell of Greenfield for fishing at the falls between Montague and Gill on the Lord's day May the 28, 1815, and judgment rendered the 29th and fined \$4.00 each. (Town Treasurer's Accounts.)

Aug. 8, 1815. A Farm in the town of Gill of about 60 acres, formerly owned by Eleazer Wrisley, laying in the center of the town. About 50

acres under good improvement. A dwelling House, Barn, and other out buildings, all in a state of good repair.
Benjamin Jacobs, Gill.

Aug. 21, 1815. Wanted immediately. A stout active Boy 16 or 17 years old as an apprentice to "the Blacksmith business." To such a one good encouragement will be given. Apply to Thomas Finks, Gill.

Nov. 21, 1815. The subscriber informs the public that he has opened a Store in Gill where he offers for sale European and West India Goods on the most reasonable terms for Cash, Country Produce, or short credit. New York money and Treasury Notes received at par, and Butter at 20 cents per pound. Cash for Grain.
Benjamin Jacobs, Gill.

Nov. 25, 1815. George Darling advertises a Farm for Sale, situated near the Center of the Town of Gill, containing fifty-five acres of Excellent land, with a convenient Dwelling House and Barn, a well of good water, and an Orchard that contains three hundred fruit trees.

Dec. 5, 1815. The Subscriber informs those indebted to him, where the demands are more than six months standing, that their notes and accounts may be had of him by paying principal and interest, till the tenth day of January next. After that time, those that remain on hand of the above description, will rise without distinction (Particular contracts excepted, if there are any) to such per cent as the Lawyers and Sheriff in their mercy shall legally see fit to add.
James Gould, Gill.

Feb. 1, 1817. Caution to Merchants to take care of their stores. The store of the subscriber was entered last Wednesday night by some villain or villains by means of a false key. The fire left in a dangerous situation; one piece of paper which the subscriber had made use of the evening before taken from his writing Table and left near his door, partially burnt; the object probably was money, as the papers in the desk were found in a confused situation; no discovery has been made of much property stolen. But a few days over a year have elapsed since the same store was broke by violence and considerable property taken.
James Gould, Gill.

Feb. 14, 1817. Gideon L. Sprague and Sylvander Root dissolve their Co-Partnership by mutual consent, and Gideon L. Sprague and Asa Smith

announce a continuance of the mercantile business under the firm name of Sprague & Smith.

Apr. 18, 1817. Boarding School. The subscriber proposes to open a School in Gill the ensuing summer to instruct in English, Grammar, Arithmetic, Systematic Writing and Geography. Your Masters and Misses wishing to be taught in those branches can be accommodated with board in the neighborhood. Provided a sufficient number apply, the terms of tuition will be only 17 cents a week by the Scholar.

Lorenzo Rockwood, Gill

Nov. 5, 1817. The body of John Gay, an itinerant peddler, was found in the woods at the foot of Day's hill just beyond the Mallard farm. The body had lain there about three months apparently, and suspended above it to a tree was a withe. The coroner's jury reported probable suicide, but a few weeks later a young man named Jesse Coy; whose father-in-law, William Walker, was then proprietor of the Howland tavern nearby, was found to be unaccountably in the possession of new clothes and a fine horse. Coy was arrested and examined by two magistrates who held him for trial, and committed him to jail. Coy persuaded a friend to bring him some powdered glass, which he swallowed, and from the effects of which he died, though doctors all agreed that typhoid fever caused his death.

(As told by Susan Mallard.)

Dec. 23, 1817. Died in the gaol in this town, of a hemorrhage of the bowels, originating from the prevailing fever, Jesse Coy of Gill, aged 27. A due regard to the feelings of his friends and connections, seems to require that further speculation upon the guilt or innocence of Coy should cease; he has gone to his great account and will be judged by an impartial and unerring tribunal in righteousness and mercy.

Sept. 5, 1818. Gideon L. Sprague and Asa Smith dissolve their partnership, Mr. Sprague to continue the business himself.

Feb. 23, 1819. Obed Wrisley advertises a good farm in Gill for sale a few rods north of the meetinghouse.

July 10, 1820. Drowned in Gill, Joel Munn aged 33 years.

July 10, 1820. Jeduthan Strickland advertises a 2-story house, barn & cider distillery for sale about 1/2 mile north of Gill meetinghouse.

Dec. 11, 1821. Died in Gill, Mrs. Wealthy, wife of Salmon Howland, aged 54. Printers in N. Y., and Alabama, please copy.

Dec. 19, 1822. Notice to Farmers. Will be sold at the house of Elijah Wrisley, late of Gill, deceased, at Public Vendue, unless previously disposed of at private sale, on the first day of April next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, that well known Farm lately belonging to the said deceased, containing about one hundred acres of excellent land, well proportioned for Mowing, Plowing, Pasturing and Wood land, with a good Orchard, Cider Mill and other buildings. Said Farm is well watered in every part, and within a few rods of where is already erected a good Saw Mill, and soon to be erected a Grist Mill, and other extensive water machinery. In short, said Farm, in point of goodness, convenience and every other particular, is undoubtedly, if not the best, one of the best acknowledged by all, that can be had in the town of Gill.

Benja. Brainard, Ex'r cum test.

Nov. 18, 1823. Died in Gill, Mr. William Clark, aged 81, a Revolutionary pensioner who was in the battle of Bunker Hill and received a wound in the engagement.

Feb. 10, 1824. Dam at Turner's falls swept away in great flood.

Feb. 18, 1824. On Wednesday night last the rain fell in torrents and combined with that of the melted snow, swelled the tributary streams of the Connecticut so much that the latter rose several feet in a few hours. The bridge at Montague opposite Greenfield is nearly all swept away. The dam on the Connecticut at the mouth of Millers river, and the Locks at that place, are almost wholly destroyed; the great dam connected with the Locks below, which was rebuilt the last season, is materially injured. (Hampshire Gazette)

Sept. 21, 1824. Stephen Dorrell advertises to do cloth dressing at his shop in Gill.

Oct. 19, 1824. Alfred Alvord advertises the receipt of a general assortment of English, West Indian and American Goods; also Crockery, Glass & Hardware.

Apr. 24, 1827. Accident. An unfortunate accident occurred in the factory of Messrs. Kendal & Russell last week. A Miss Hosmer, about 20 years of age, while cleaning the carding machine, was caught by the wrist in

the gearing by the side of it. Before she could be released, her right arm from nearly the elbow to the wrist was dreadfully mangled. Amputation, it is feared, will be necessary.

Dec. 14, 1827. Died in Gill, Benjamin Hosley, 78 years. Mr. Hosley was found dead in the woods about 1/2 mile from his house.

July 5, 1828. Died in Gill, Jacob Bates, 78 years. He was in the memorable battle of Bunker Hill, and afterwards served three years in the navy, during which time he was in three engagements.

Apr. 25, 1828. Isaac Chenery and Sylvester Allen dissolve their co-partnership under the name of Isaac Chenery & Co.

Dec. 21, 1828. Died in Gill, Mr. Asahel Wrisley, aged 78 years. Mr. Wrisley had lived in the town of Gill sixty-eight years and was one of the first settlers. He bore his last sickness with patience and christian fortitude and died with a full hope of being forever blessed. Printers in N. Y., Pennsylvania and Ohio are requested to copy.

Jan. 20, 1829. LOST. In Gill on the 17 inst., a red morocco Pocket Book, containing one note of hand against Calvin Howland of Eighty dollars, and one against Abraham Barnes of about nine dollars and other writings. Whoever finds said pocketbook and will return it to the owner, shall be generously rewarded.

Robert White, Jr.

Dec. 28, 1830. David Blackmer advertises a new assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery & Palmleaf.

Jan. 26, 1831. Roswell Purple of Gill and General E. Gilbert of Deerfield drove one horse from Deerfield to Boston (95 miles) between the hours of 5:15 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. of one day. Horse was not injured.

May 22, 1832. There will be a meeting of the Temperance Society of Gill on Friday the 25th at half past 2 P.M. at the Congregational Meeting House in that place. A general attendance of all those that take an interest in the cause is requested.

Jonathan D. Hosley, Sec'y.

Oct. 8, 1835. Died in Gill, Mrs. Abigail, wife of Col. S. S. Howland, aged 54. Printers in Illinois please copy.

July 10, 1836. Died in Gill, Mr. Henry Ewers, aged 88. On awakening in the morning, his wife found him dead by her side.

Apr. 11, 1838. Died in Gill at the home of Mr. Ebenezer Chapin, Mrs. Roxana Scott, wife of Mr. Rufus Scott, 54 years. Mrs. Scott was riding in a wagon, and the horse to which it was attached became frightened and ran. In passing a narrow bridge, the wheel went off on one side. She was precipitated with violence, first against a fence nearby, and thence into deep water over which the bridge lay. Great bodily injury was the consequence; and after languishing two days, she expired in the enjoyment of christian hope. She left a husband and a numerous family to lament her loss.

May 21, 1838. To the Public. The subscriber intends to carry on the Carding and Cloth-Dressing business the present season at the old stand of Janes & Eudy in the town of Gill, and all business intrusted to his care shall be done in a thorough and workmanlike manner to satisfaction of customers.

Noah E. Power.

Sept. 26, 1838. Tailoring done by Elizabeth Wadleigh, who will make it her home at the house of Mr. Richards in Gill, where she will take in work or work out by the day, as may best suit the convenience of her employers. No pains will be spared to suit them, which she hopes to do. N.B.-All cutting done except men's coats.

Mar. 6, 1839. NOTICE. The subscriber having been appointed FIELD DRIVER in the town of Gill, for the ensuing year, hereby gives notice to all concerned that he intends to faithfully discharge the duties of his office by distraining all cattle going at large, against the law, after 1st May next, until the 1st of November next.

Aaron P. Hale

Mar. 19, 1839. The Congregational Choir in Gill will give a Concert of Music, Tuesday 26th inst., at 1 o'clock P.M., under the direction of A. Rankin of Northampton.

Apr. 8, 1841. Died in Canton, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., Samuel Leonard, aged 100 years and five months. He lived at one time in Gill on the S. P. Stratton farm. He was a large and strongly built man, and his teeth were all double, both upper and lower sets. An expert hunter, he took a trip every year to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., for the purpose of hunting

and trapping, and finally took up his residence there. He had a grandson, Moses Leonard, with the same love of hunting, who, when 74 years old, claimed he had killed 300 wolves, 150 bears, and deer without number.

Mar. 10, 1842. A Fish Story. Mr. Benjamin Barton of Gill caught last Monday evening the largest Pickerel we ever heard of. It was three feet and a half in length, nineteen inches in circumference, weighing 20 lbs.

Nov. 29, 1842. Died in Gill at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. J. W. Lander, Mr. George Loveland, a Revolutionary pensioner, after a lingering and distressing illness which confined him to his bed more than 2 years, aged 82. Printers in Vermont, New York and Ohio, please copy.

Apr. 30, 1844. Fire in Gill. The blacksmith shop of Mr. Abel Holton was destroyed by fire week before last.

Oct. 2, 1848. Died at Factory Village at the house of his son-in-law, Mr. Holgate, Richard Wilkinson of Muddersfield, England. He had just arrived from a voyage undertaken with the view of seeing once more in life a daughter from whom he had been for many years separated. He had intended to embark in the "Ocean Monarch" and considered it the hand of Providence which guided him to another vessel, the "Sea Queen," thus preserving him from the fate that befell most of the passengers on that ill-fated ship. (His grave is in the Riverside Cemetery.)

Oct. 2, 1848. Fatal Accident. Mr. Isaac Plumb of Gill was killed in Northfield last Friday by the caving upon him of a bank of earth.

July 5, 1849. Sudden Death — Mr. Augustus Phelps, son of Mr. John Phelps of Gill, started from Illinois on Saturday, with wife and child to spend the summer. On Wednesday between Buffalo and Albany he was taken sick on board the cars and stopped at Syracuse where he died Thursday morning. His disease is supposed to have been cholera.

Aug. 30, 1849. Mrs. Rossy (Tenney) Williams, formerly of Gill, died in Cummington. A school teacher until she married as 2nd wife, Mr. Luther Root, late cashier of the Amherst Bank. She went South with a stepson to teach school, and there married Mr. William Williams of Bainbridge, Ga., a widower. She came North to spend the summer with her relatives. While visiting her sister, Rev. Mrs. Baldwin in Cummington, she was attacked with the complaint of which she died.

June 29, 1857. The owners of the Montague Canals have advertised the same for sale in the city paper. They state it is the intention of the present owners to close the concern.

Sept. 24, 1858. Daniel Hastings of Brattleboro, formerly of Gill, a deaf and dumb man, was killed near South Vernon by the cars, while walking near the track.

Apr. 8, 1859. New Bell. Raised and hung in the tower of the Congregational Meetinghouse. Manufactured by Meneely's Sons, West Troy, N. Y. Weight 950 lbs. Key of B. (Town Records)

April 20, 1862. This morning the Connecticut river has attained a height never before reached in the memory of any man now living. Some of the oldest inhabitants, born and bred within daily sight of the stream, declare the flood to be unprecedented. "Kidd's Island" never before entirely covered, is now submerged to a depth of several feet; the water taking off the barn thereon heretofore standing. At the mouth of Unadilla the waters set in so as to entirely hide from view the dam at Janes's pail factory and sawmill, covering it to a depth of some 16 to 20 inches, so that persons could pass in a skiff from the river up the brook to the grist-mill without hindrance. (Town Records)

Apr. 10, 1868. Died in Greenfield, James Wilson Lander, formerly of Gill, the bookbinder. He served in the Navy during the War of 1812, and was on the Chesapeake when the Shannon was engaged. He was twice a prisoner in British prisons.

Nov. 3, 1868. Voted to purchase the Morgan ferry place for the Town. (Town Records)

July 11, 1870. In Somerset, Vt., Hatsel P. Lyons, aged 28, only son of S. J. Lyons. He was chopping alone in the woods and was killed by the falling of a tree.

July 11, 1870. Mrs. Abigail Hanson of Gill in her 74th year has lived 20 years within two miles of two different railroads, but has never seen the inside of a car.

Oct. 20, 1870. A very perceptible shock of an earthquake was experienced this day at about 12 o'clock M. The shock was preceded by a low rumbling like very distant thunder. The Church spire rocked to and fro

as no gale has been seen to do it. On Sunday morning following the earthquake, a fiery meteor passed over from Northeast to Southwest and exploded with a report like that of a six-pounder. (Town Records)

Sept. 3, 1873. Mr. Martin now carries the mail and runs an express between Gill, Factory Village and Greenfield.

Dec. 8, 1875. O. F. Hale has been appointed postmaster in place of Josiah D. Canning.

Jan. 28, 1876. Died in Gill, Mrs. Eunice Stoughton, relict of Dea. Timothy Stoughton, aged 95 years. Mrs. Stoughton was one of four girls who eighty-five years ago went to school together in Warwick, who afterwards kept up an intimate acquaintance, and who have all died within a year. The others were Mrs. Curtis of Leverett, Mrs. Leonard of Warwick, and Mrs. Clapp of Dorchester. Mrs. Nash, who died in Greenfield a short time since, at the age of 97, was another familiar acquaintance.

May 22, 1876. Phineas Hosmer has started a shoe shop in Riverside.

Jan. 7, 1878. Our Town Hall looks rejuvenated, having been lately repainted without and within.

Feb. 16, 1878. Died at Strafford, Vt., Martha, widow of Moulton Morey, aged 101 years and 10 months. The daughter of John and Patty (Bartlett) Frizzell, she was born on "Grass Hill" when it was part of the town of Northfield, but is now part of Gill, known as Mount Hermon. She married in Fairlee, Vt., Nov. 10, 1793, Moulton Morey who died Feb. 7, 1854. Mrs. Morey's mother, Martha (Bartlett) Frizzell, also lived to be 101 years old.

July 6, 1881. Edward P. Deane has made a four year renewal of his contract to carry mail between Gill, Factory Village and Greenfield.

Mar. 24, 1886. Roberts Brothers have sold the Janes Gristmill to Arthur Stratton.

Aug. 17, 1888. Deacon Willard Lovering, aged 85, was instantly killed by lightning while sitting in a chair in the kitchen of his house. He was found by neighbors when smoke and flames were seen coming from the upper part of his house. Miss Mary R. Richardson, his housekeeper, was

probably killed instantly at the same time in one of the upper rooms, but could not be reached on account of the headway already made by the fire.

Aug. 26, 1891. The spire of the Congregational Church in Gill has become unsafe, and has been taken down.

Jan. 13, 1892. The new spire of the Gill Congregational Church is completed and reflects credit on the contractor, John LaPointe of Turners Falls. The spire is covered with black Pennsylvania slate, and the vane is about ninety feet from the ground.

Nov. 1893. Precinct voting first held.

May 8, 1895. The old Asa Stoughton homestead, remodeled by Henry Hayden and known as "Maple Lawn Farm," destroyed by fire.

Sept. 11, 1895. Terrific hail storm that destroyed all fruit and vegetable crops unharvested. Immense hailstones piled up four and five inches deep could be plainly seen for several days after.

July 1, 1896. The brook near Henry Purple's is being spanned by an iron bridge.

Aug. 15, 1900. Gill post office discontinued, Rural Free Delivery having been started on Aug. 1st.

Chapter 28

COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALLS FIGHT

The annual field meeting of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association was held in 1876 in Riverside to celebrate the Bi-Centennial of the engagement between the Indians and the militia under Captain William Turner. The exercises were held in the pine grove that then stood on Fort Hill where some scenes of the actual battle took place. The program for the day was scheduled as follows:

Field Meeting and Basket Picnic
of the
Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association
and Bi-Centennial Celebration of the Falls Fight
on the Battle Field, Wednesday, May 31, 1876
Chief Marshal Maj. Henry Keith

Order of Exercises

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|---|---|
| 1. Singing | By a select choir |
| 2. Address of Welcome to the Association | By George L. Barton, Esq., of Turners Falls |
| 3. Response | By the President, Hon. George Sheldon |
| 4. Music | |
| 5. Prayer | By Rev. C. E. Daniels of Montague |
| 6. Original Ode | By Mrs. Lucretia W. Eels of Deerfield |
| 7. Historical Address | By Rev. John F. Moors of Greenfield |
| 8. Music | |
| 9. Historical Poem | By Josiah D. Canning of Gill |
| 10. Collation | |
| 11. Select Singing | |
| 12. Short addresses, interspersed with singing. | |

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS: Rev. John F. Moors, Josiah D. Canning, Albert C. Parsons of Northfield, Rev. Dr. Crawford of Deerfield, and Jonathan Johnson, Eben A. Hall, and Francis M. Thompson of Greenfield.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE: (to assist the Committee of Arrangements) Timothy M. Stoughton, Nathaniel Holmes, Leonard Barton, Frank Foster, Herrick. H. Howland, Fred Perry, John H. Clark, and Robert Day of Riverside; G. T. C. Holden, Maj. Henry Keith, Cecil T. Bagnall, C. P. Wise, W. D. Russell, N. W. Dibble, George E. Marshall, George L. Barton, and Nathan D. Allen of Turners Falls.

THE GILL CENTENNIAL

The centennial celebration of the incorporation of the Town of Gill and the annual Field Day of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association were held at Gill Center, Wednesday, September 13, 1893. The historical address for the occasion was delivered by Francis Walker, a grandson of Timothy M. Stoughton, and son of General Francis Walker, then President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The exercises were under the direction of Professor H. A. Pratt, President of the Day, with Sheriff Isaac Chenery as Marshal. The music was furnished by the Greenfield Band.

Morning Exercises. 10:30 a.m.

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| 1. Music | "Grand American Fantasia" |
| 2. Prayer | Rev. Henry Hyde |
| 3. Address of Welcome | Prof. H. A. Pratt |
| 4. Response | Francis M. Thompson, Vice-Pres. P.V.M.A. |
| 5. Music | "The Old and New" |
| 6. Historical Address | Francis Walker |
| 7. Music | "The Anvil Chorus" |

Afternoon Exercises. 1 p.m.

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| 1. Music | "Bridal Rose" t |
| 2. Greetings from the Town of Gill | |
| 3. Response for Greenfield | Rev. P. Voorhees Finch |
| 4. Response for Deerfield | Miss C. Alice Baker |
| 5. Response for the County | Edward E. Lyman |
| 6. Response for the Commonwealth | Lieut. Gov. Roger Wolcott |
| 7. Music | "Turkish Reveille" |
| 8. Mount Hermon Boys School | Address and Singing by Students |
| 9. Gill's Contribution to Science | Timothy M. Stoughton |
| 10. Personal Reminiscences | Leonard Barton and Others |
| 11. Music | "Belle of the Village" |
| 12. Addresses by Rev. F. P. Chapin
and other Former Residents | |
| 13. March | "Congress Hall" |

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS: H. A. Pratt, Gill, Chairman; Herbert C. Parsons, Greenfield, Secretary; H. A. Pratt, Nelson Burrows, Leonard Barton, Timothy M. Stoughton, and Samuel P. Stratton for the Town of Gill; Herbert C. Parsons, Jonathan Johnson, Frederick Hawkes, and Reuben W. Field for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.

The following article covering the Centennial exercises appeared in the "Gazette & Courier" under date of September 16, 1893:

The day was the perfection of September's rich possibility, and the temperature best suited to the comfort of the oldest citizens not one of whom it is safe to say remained at his home, even though his years might span nearly the town's first century. The fertile slopes which make Gill a farming region whose richness the early settlers discovered and appropriated, were as green and fresh as if the summer sun had made no effort to scorch their verdure.

The Greenfield band awoke the echoes from the Common soon after nine o'clock and a parade of school-children, Grand Army veterans, committee members, speakers and other invited guests, under the direction of Sheriff Chenery, a native of Gill and marshal of the day, marched around the Common and through the arched gateway bearing its "Welcome" to the field prepared for the exercises.

From far and near the natives of Gill had returned to celebrate, and it was nearly 11 o'clock before the chairman was able to interrupt the happy renewing of acquaintances among the two thousand and more assembled, and call the crowd to order. Due to the lateness, the chairman was compelled to omit his prepared speech in order that the remaining time be given the orator of the day, and the program for the morning be concluded according to schedule.

MONUMENT TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM TURNER

The Thirtieth Annual Field Day of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association was held at Riverside, Wednesday, September 12, 1900, to dedicate a monument marking the Battle Field of May 19, 1676, between the English under Captain William Turner and the Indians.

Morning Program, 10 a.m.

Music

Address of Welcome and presentation of Title Deeds

Timothy M. Stoughton of Gill

Response and acceptance of Gift

Hon. George Sheldon, Pres. P.V.M.A.

Prayer

Music

Paper contributed by Miss Rowena Buell of Marietta, Ohio

Read by Miss Laura Wells of Deerfield

Historical Address

Ralph M. Stoughton of Riverside

Music

Afternoon Program, 2 p.m.

Music

Address Hon. E. Stevens Henry, M. C., of Rockville, Conn.

Address Hon. George P. Lawrence, M. C., of North Adams

Music

Address Hon. Herbert C. Parsons of Greenfield

Speaking Members of the Association and Others

Music "America" — by all present

The historical address on this occasion recounted the details of the "Falls Fight." As the engagement took place upon the soil of Gill, an abstract of the address follows:

We have assembled here today upon historic ground. We have come to dedicate a lasting monument to the men who surprised and destroyed the Indians encamped at this place on May 19, 1676. It is with many misgivings and with a consciousness of my own inexperience that I undertake a task like the historical address for such an occasion, especially since I know how complete have been the historical investigations of Mr. Sheldon and his colleagues of the Pocumtuck Association. Montaigne, in speaking of his own writings, said: "I have gathered me a posie of other men's flowers, and naught but the cord that binds them is mine own." So if I also to a large degree have been necessarily dependent upon the fruits of other men's investigations, the cord that binds them into one, at least, is mine.

Less than three hundred years have elapsed since the time when the Red Man held undisputed sway over this great valley. Here by the river below us, the Indian of the Pocumtuck pitched his wigwam, while from the depths of the stream he drew his store of fish; in the wilderness along its banks were his hunting grounds, and below in the fertile fields his harvest of corn and beans was planted. But all this has changed. Soon, as an historian says, "across the ocean came a pilgrim bark bearing the seeds of life and death. The former were sown for us, while the latter sprang up in the path of the native." The result, however, did not take place at once, but came about gradually.

During the period from 1620 to 1675, the Red Man and the White Man lived side by side, "for," as Hoyt remarks in his *Indian Wars*, "the natives generally evinced a peaceable disposition and admitted the English among them with apparent satisfaction." A great influx of emigrants from England to New England arrived in these fifty years of fostering peace and prosperity. New villages were constantly springing up. The settlers threaded their way inland, reclaimed the wilderness to the use of agriculture, and founded their settlements. Haverhill was a northern frontier town on the Merrimac; Lancaster and Brookfield were isolated villages; while Springfield, Deerfield, and Westfield were the settlements farthest to the west. In the first twenty-five years after the Pilgrims landed, the colonists had settled fifty towns and villages, had reared forty churches, several forts and prisons, and the Massachusetts Colony had established Harvard College. The Connecticut Valley with its rich alluvial intervals attracted the pioneer at an early time, and the towns of Northampton, Hadley, and Deerfield sprang up.

For fifty years the English lived peaceably in these scattered villages, and then came that darker chapter in our colonial history, when the Red Man with all the unique savagery of his Indian nature brought death and destruction upon the settlements. When the war whoop of the merciless savage and the shrieks of defenseless families arose to heaven together amid the smoke and flames of burning villages and towns. When the musket, the torch, and the tomahawk brought havoc and desolation everywhere.

King Philip's War, as this sanguinary struggle is called in history, broke out in 1675. Philip possessed an innate hostility to the White Man, and from the very beginning of his power, his conduct was such as to excite the English to suspicion. How well founded these suspicions were was proved later only too thoroughly.

The threatening cloud broke suddenly upon the colonists in an attack by Philip's men on Swansea the 24th of June 1675. The dormant passions of the savage had been awakened and the war was on. With amazing rapidity it spread through the colony. Hardly had Swansea and Taunton been attacked, and Dartmouth and Brookfield been burned, when the war was turned toward this region. Deerfield was assailed and was soon after the scene of a memorable slaughter. The awful story of Bloody Brook is too well known to need recounting. No part of Western Massachusetts is so fraught with the brutish atrocities of Indian warfare as the Valley of the Connecticut from Northfield to Springfield. It became the theater for a fiendish drama unique in its barbarity. Nowhere have the con-

flicts between the native and the settler of this valley been exceeded for the relentless brutality of the one, and the indomitable fortitude of the other. Some of the bloodiest struggles that crimson this period were fought along the banks of this river.

The winter of 1675-76 was a sad and gloomy one for the colonists. So far victory for the most part had been on the side of the Indian, whose warfare was a warfare of stealth and ambuscade. As the Indian in peace was an idler, so in war was he a marauder. Divided into innumerable prowling bands, he attacked the lonely farm-houses and distant settlements, disappearing as suddenly as he came, yet leaving murder, fire, and desolation behind. Under cover of the night he furtively crept upon his victims, and the first warning of his presence was the ring of musketry, as the settler dropped upon his own threshold. While the English pursued in one direction, he burned and plundered in another. Lancaster, Medfield, Weymouth, and Groton were laid in ruins. Early in the spring of 1676 the war was again transferred to this valley, and we come at length to the incident which today claims our interest.

In those early days when first our ancestors explored this valley, no river in all New England afforded a greater abundance of fish than the Connecticut, and no spot along its banks presented a more favorable station for their capture than this very place. In the spring of each year, immense quantities of shad and salmon came up the river until the rapids and the falls close by obstructed their course, and a place remarkably adapted by nature for a fishing ground was furnished. For years, perhaps for centuries, the Indian made this place his springtime camping ground.

Such was the case in the spring of 1676. A large camp of several hundred Indians was situated on this side of the river, a smaller camp was on the opposite bank, and a third on what is known as "Smead's Island" some distance below here. The Indians, fearing no danger from the valley settlements, camped here in careless security. They spent the daytime in catching and drying fish to fill their barns for the winter's stock, and the nighttime was passed in feasting and revelry, while no military vigilance was kept.

This state of affairs in the Indian camp was reported by two boys, Gilbert and Stebbins, who had been held captives, but, who, on account of the negligence of the Indians, escaped and found their way to Hatfield. Soon after, Thomas Reed, a soldier who had been taken prisoner in the April previous, made his escape and came to Hadley. He too informed the English of the Indians' carelessness and neglect of precautions against surprise. When all this was

known, the English, urged on by the beginning of renewed incursions upon them, decided that the time had come when a decisive blow must be struck.

In accordance with this resolution, a force of about 145 men was gathered at Hatfield for an expedition against the Indian camp. Reverend Hope Atherton, "who was a courageous man, and willing to expose himself for the public good," was the chaplain; Benjamin Waite and Experience Hinsdale were the guides; the whole was under the command of Captain William Turner of Boston. Each man was furnished with provisions for three meals, and nearly all were mounted men. At sundown on Thursday, May 18th, after "a fervent prayer by the chaplain, and a tearful Godspeed from their friend," the little army with stout hearts and set purpose, passed out from Hatfield for a memorable night-march of more than twenty miles. Across the meadows to Sugarloaf, up the Pocumtuck path, past Bloody Brook where on that very day eight months before, the heedless Lothrop and his three score men had dyed red the ground with the best blood of Essex; past Deerfield in ruins, twice burned; onward across North Meadows, over the Deerfield River and up the steep hillside to Petty's Plain. Following the Indian trail at the foot of Shelburne Hills, along Green River, then turning to the east and skirting the great swamp, the party finally reached the plateau just northwest of Factory Village. Leaving the horses here under a small guard, Turner led his men noiselessly down into the "Hollow," forded Fall River near the upper bridge, scaled the steep ascent of the opposite bank and came out on the summit above. On the slope he drew up his men in line, with his objective point, the Indian camp, spread out before him.

Save for the monotonous roar of the cataract, silence reigned in the camp by the river side. Not a sentinel was posted. The dusky warrior was wrapped in profound slumber. At the very time when Turner and his adventurous men were making their stealthy advance, a grand feast was being held here at Peskeompskut. Warrior and squaw, the young and the old alike, gorged themselves with salmon drawn from the river, and with beef gained in a recent raid on the valley settlements, and then filled to repletion, the whole camp slept in unguarded, unsuspecting slumber. Little did the Indian dream of danger, yet the end was near at hand.

Impatiently the soldiers awaited the light, and in the grey of the early dawn, they stole down among the unguarded foe. The word of command was given, and a crash of musketry aroused the stupefied sleepers. Many were killed at the first fire, while the terrified sur-

vivors, believing their furious enemy, the Mohawks, were upon them, rushed madly to the river and pushed off in paddleless canoes, only to be engulfed in the tumultuous waters of the cataract. Others, hiding about the banks, were hunted out and slain. Resistance was slight, and only one of the assailants was wounded by the enemy.

The firing quickly aroused the camp on the opposite shore and a party soon crossed to bring assistance. About twenty of Turner's men volunteered to meet them, while the main body returned to their horses and began the march back. The small detachment that had gone to attack the Indians from the other camp proved insufficient. They were forced to retreat and reached their horses with great difficulty, only to meet attack from all sides. One of the number, Jonathan Wells, a boy of sixteen, though wounded, managed to reach Turner and begged him to return to their relief. But Turner, believing that "it was better to save some, than lose all" pushed on.

Unfortunately for Captain Turner, he was very feeble, and scarcely able to sustain the excitement and fatigue of such service. As the sun came up and the day grew warm and sultry, Captain Turner's weakness increased until it became evident to his troops that he soon would be unable to guide them. At this unfortunate time, attacks from various quarters and the baseless rumor that Philip was approaching with a thousand warriors, caused a sudden panic among the troops. Order and discipline were lost and the retreat became a rout. The force divided into separate squads, each bent only on self-preservation. The main body at length reached Green River, and there Captain Turner fell beneath the enemy's fatal fire. Captain Holyoke, upon whom the command now devolved, was a man equal to the emergency. Exposing himself to every danger, his own dauntless courage incited his men to redoubled exertion. Hour by hour they struggled on, continually harassed by the infuriate foe, until at last the survivors of the shattered troop arrived at Hatfield with the loss of forty-one men killed.

The Falls Fight has ever been memorable. It was more than merely a bloody slaughter. Here, about this very ground upon which we now stand, took place the final struggle between the Indian and the settler of this valley, and here the Indian lost forever his tribal power over this region. Here beside the waters of the river below us, the men of Hatfield, the men of Hadley, the men of this Pocumtuck Valley, wrote in bloody characters the concluding chapter in the history of the Pocumtucks as a nation. Save for feeble and ineffectual attacks on Hadley and Hatfield a few days later, the Indian as a

tribal power never afterward beset these settlements. All their later depredations were made at the instigation of the French, and under their leadership for the most part. From this time and place the Pocumtuck tribes passed into oblivion.

And so it is highly fitting that we today honor the memory of the men of that early day, who over two-hundred years ago came with shot and sword and fire, and from this very spot swept the Indians to the river below, ground their cabins to the dust and sent their wigwams to the clouds above, freeing forever our valley from the thralldom of barbarism.

GILL WAR MEMORIAL

The commemoration of the one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Gill scheduled for 1943 was necessarily postponed because of the conditions enforced upon us by World War II. As the dedication of the Gill War Memorial in 1947 was substituted for the contemplated commemorative celebration, an account of the proceedings and exercises connected with the dedication of the Memorial are here given.

The erection of a suitable memorial monument to the soldiers and sailors from Gill who have served their country in the various wars was brought before the annual Town Meeting in March 1943, and Mr. Frank Zak was authorized to appoint a committee, of which he should be the chairman, to take all the necessary steps to accomplish the project. Mr. Zak chose the following committee to act with him: George W. Deming, S. Fred Kerslake, Jr., Charles R. Mayberry, Miss Amelia Pogoda, Carroll Rikert, Mrs. Bessie L. Shebell, Ralph M. Stoughton, and William Tibbetts. Francis Remillard was later appointed to take the place of Mr. Tibbetts who met death in an automobile accident. Miss Pogoda was elected secretary of the committee, and Mr. Deming treasurer.

It was the opinion of the committee that a stone monument bearing an inscribed tablet would best fulfill the requirements, and Mr. Zak and Mr. Kerslake were appointed to obtain designs and estimated costs. It was first suggested that a large boulder from some spot in Gill would most appropriately provide a setting for the bronze tablet, but it was found that the cost of excavating, transporting, and adapting a boulder huge enough to accommodate the tablet would run into prohibitive figures, and that a granite block would be preferable. The granite market at the time, however, was so far behind in orders that the possibility of securing the required stone seemed out of the question, but through the intervention of Mr. Lee Taylor of Negus, Taylor & Co., the Greenfield monument dealers, who took Mr. Zak and Mr. Kerslake to Barre, Ver-

mont, for an interview with the officials at the quarry, the stone necessary for such a monument was set aside for when the purpose for which it was to be used was learned.

In the meantime a public meeting had been held at the Town Hall on June 17, 1943, at which the plans of the committee were set forth, and at which contributions for the project were pledged to the amount of \$220. The members of the committee volunteered to raise further subscriptions by personal solicitation, and a final total of over \$500 was accumulated. The Town appropriated \$600 at the annual meeting in March 1946, thereby assuring funds necessary for the complete project.

The granite shaft is white granite from the Smith Division of the Rock of Ages Quarry at Barre, Vermont. It is 6 feet, 9 inches high; 5 feet, 6 inches wide; and 18 inches thick. It weighs 6 tons, and in November, 1946, it was placed upon the cement stone base built by volunteer workmen from the town. The bronze tablet measures 4 by 5 feet and was cast by T. G. McGann & Co. of Somerville, Mass. It is inscribed with two-hundred and forty-one names and was attached to the granite monument April 20, 1947. The monument was unveiled and dedicated on Decoration Day, May 30, 1947, with a program of appropriate exercises; Frederic Snyder, news analyst and commentator, being the principal speaker.

PROGRAM

PARADE with Mount Hermon School Band and Turners Falls High School Band

FLAG RAISING

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Unveiling Monument

Placing of Wreath by Frank Zak

Prayer of Dedication by Rev. James F. Hastings

Reading of the names of deceased service men by Rev. Lester P. White, Army Chaplain, Mount Hermon

Placing of a rose as names of service men are read

TAPS

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

S. Fred Kerslake, Jr.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN

Ralph M. Stoughton

MARCH

Mount Hermon School Band

DEDICATORY ADDRESS

Frederic Snyder, War Correspondent

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

BENEDICTION

Rev. William T. Thistle, Pastor of
the Congregational Church,
Turners Falls

MARCH

Turners Falls High School Band

SUPPER

By Ladies Aid Society

DANCE AT TOWN HALL

Sponsored by Community Club

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Honorary Committee: Peleg Eddy, Nelson Simonds, John Sliva, Charles Burrows, Samuel Day, Luther Hastings, S. Fred Kerslake, Sr., Frank Jones, Frank Summers, Daniel Warren, Miss Maverette Johnson, Mrs. Mary Stratton, and Harry Holton

General Chairman: Frank Zak

Organization: Carroll Rikert

Celebration: S. Fred Kerslake, Jr., Ernest Blake, and Richard Clapp

Veterans Participation: Arthur E. Tuttle (World War I) and Walter Vassar (World War II)

Speakers: Earle Squires

Music: Carlton W. L'Hommedieu

Memorial: Lester P. White

Dedication: Gordon F. Pyper

Floats and Parade: Julia Zak

Historical: Ralph M. Stoughton

Guests: D. O. Paul

Publicity: Mrs. P. W. Eddy

Church: Parish Committee

Schools: Harry A. Erickson

Library: Mrs. Lyman Hale

Exhibits: Lyman Hale

Finances: Grove Deming

Grounds: Richard F. Clapp

Flagpole: Ernest Yukl

Property: Francis Remillard

Police and Parking: George Hastings

Refreshments: Mrs. C. W. Summer

Evening Program: Community Club

Sound Amplification: E. T. Williams

Chapter 29

TRADITIONS AND ANECDOTES

KING PHILIP'S RETREAT

A mile above Grass Hill, and opposite the Village of Northfield, where the fort then stood, was "King Philip's Retreat." The legend says he had a resort and lookout here, as well as at Mount Hope in Rhode Island.

It is, perhaps, 100 feet above the river; a portion of tableland covered with trees. Huge trees were cut in logs and piled here, ready for rolling down on the heads of the enemy; and here stood, but three or four years ago, a great and exceedingly ancient-looking pine, which according to tradition, was used by the royal Indian as a watchtower. It is said he kept one of his men among the branches continually by day, watching the settlement of Northfield and the movements of the whites for miles along the river. Behind the tree is a ditch, which was dug for defense, and toward the river the retreat is extremely abrupt and steep. Here, according to that which the old inhabitants have handed down to us their descendants, was spent by the Indian hero one of the last summers of his life. We cannot but pity him as we imagine him saying:

"We, the rightful lords of yore,
Are the rightful lords no more;
Like the silver mist we fail,
Like the red leaves in the gale—
Fail like shadows when the dawning
Waves the bright flag of the morning."

J. McLellan

(From "Legends of New England" by Julia Gill
and Frances Lee.)

THE SQUAW WHO SURVIVED THE CATARACT

There are only two persons on record who survived a passage through the cataract. One, a man named Elisha Tilden, and the other an Indian squaw. Tilden's exploit has been mentioned already. The story of the squaw is told in Peter's "History of Connecticut."

The Indian woman had crossed the Connecticut in a canoe from the Montague side to buy a jug of rum at the Howland Tavern, and in

the return journey somehow lost control of the canoe and was drawn into the swift current and carried through the raging waters of the cataract. While she was thus being hurried to certain death as she had every reason to expect, she seized the jug of rum and drained it to the last drop.

However, the unexpected happened. The canoe did not overturn, and the squaw rode safely through to be rescued in a highly inebriated condition several miles below the falls. When she had sobered up and was asked how she dared to drink so much rum with approaching death staring her in the face, she answered that she knew it was altogether too much rum to drink at one time, but that she feared the jug might be lost in the cataract and she did not want all that good rum to be wasted.

OLD MOTHER THATCHER

In the days of the town's beginnings there lived on the outskirts of Factory Hollow a woman named Catherine Thatcher who was reputed by many to be a witch. She was, at any rate, odd and decidedly a village character. Her daughter, Sally Hathaway, about whom many anecdotes have also been handed down, when asked if her mother really was a witch, replied "Lor'sy! no more'n I be," and then whispered "but she do have some witchery books."

Old Mother Thatcher was sure to be present at all public gatherings, and came in for much joshing and heckling. In the course of years she acquired the art of scolding as only an irate woman can scold who has learned the knack. Finally, on one of the annual election days, she became provoked beyond all control and retaliated by pronouncing a witch's curse on the spot for all time.

The dire promises of that awful curse remained an everpresent topic of conversation. When high water during a spring freshet carried away one of the early dams, or some other catastrophic event occurred, the old-timers were wont to shrug their shoulders and attribute the calamity to Old Mother Thatcher.

THE COUNTERFEITER'S DEN

Continental money depreciated in value during the Revolutionary War, and as the coins were easily counterfeited, much spurious money came into circulation to offset the decreased buying value of genuine money. The Greenfield Committee of Safety discovered counterfeit money in circulation and traced the coinage to a hut in the woods below the West Gill Road in the rear of the cascade on Fall River Hill. Here they found a man named Harrington with all the molds and im-

plements necessary for counterfeiting. They arrested the culprit and took him to Northampton to await trial, but found no room for him in the overcrowded jail. Whereupon the counterfeiter was taken into the woods and lashed, according to the old-fashioned measure, until he promised to leave this part of the country.

Fifty years ago vestiges of the old hut on the brook above the cascade were pointed out as the remains of "The Counterfeiter's Den."

THE GILL PIRATE (BARNEY COTTSLEIGH)

One day when Captain John A. Tenney was at work on his farm, a roving wayfarer came along the highway and asked the Captain if he wanted to hire a helper. There happened to be need of an extra hand just at the time, and, as the stranger was clear-eyed, of middle age and ruggedly built, Captain Tenney decided to give him a trial. The man had only a small pack with him, which later on was known to have contained merely some odds and ends of clothing wrapped around a spyglass.

It soon became evident that the new hired-man was wholly unacquainted with farm work, but Captain Tenney found him to be willing and steady, so allowed him to keep on, though he proved to be rather untalkative and unapproachable. This was at first thought to be due to diffidence or embarrassment because of his unfamiliarity with the chores set for him to do, but as time went on it was discovered that silence and aloofness were only two of the many personal peculiarities that soon aroused much curiosity about the man's previous history.

Although he appeared to be completely satisfied with Captain Tenney's arrangements and to have "settled down," he sought no companionship, and rebuffed all proffers of friendliness, even those from the Tenney family. His spare time was spent alone, his one diversion being on pleasant Sundays to climb a hill nearby and pass the afternoon gazing through his spyglass. At other times he never left the farm. He avoided meeting the townspeople who came to see Captain Tenney, and the arrival of any strangers sent him scurrying off in a panic.

He continued to stay with Captain Tenney, and after many years of unremitting faithfulness died on the Tenney farm. Yet during all this time no one ever broke through his reserve to gain his confidence. He never divulged the slightest information concerning his past, nor did even Captain Tenney ever know his true name or where he came from.

One of his peculiarities that aroused much curiosity was the manner in which he always kept himself fully clothed. Even in the heat of the haying season, he never would unbutton his shirt or roll up his sleeves, and he resented an allusion to it so savagely that no repetition was ever attempted.

When the mysterious stranger died, Captain Tenney, mindful of the man's evident desire to conceal some bodily disfigurement of affliction, made the burial preparations himself. He found the man's entire body had been tattooed, and that it also bore many scars of cuts made from some sharp weapon, like a saber or cutlass. Some dark or tragic happening in the man's life must have forced him to seek concealment in rustic surroundings, and to pass the rest of his life in friendless seclusion. The spyglass, the cutlass wounds, the man's taciturnity, and his avoidance of all social companionship brought to Captain Tenney's mind tales told about the pirates, and the man was thereafter always referred to as "The Pirate" by the Tenney family. It was not till many years late, after Captain Tenney also had passed on, that outsiders became acquainted with the intimate facts about "The Gill Pirate."

"RIVER SAM" AND THE BULLY

At one of the "Election Day" celebrations a blustering bully from a neighboring town who prided himself on his great strength and wrestling prowess had successfully thrown each antagonist who dared to grapple with him. Finally the braggart straightened up and boastfully declared that he "could whip all Gill." Now it happened that Mr. Samuel Stratton, generally called "River Sam" to distinguish him from "Tanner Sam" was known by his fellow townsmen to be a man of prodigious strength, and he was sought out to take up the bully's challenge and avenge the insult to Gill. Mr. Stratton was a quiet and courteous man highly respected by all his fellow citizens, and it was some time before his friends could persuade him to engage in an act accompanied by such public notoriety. However, he at last yielded, and in no time laid his adversary on his back. Springing to his feet, the braggard declared his foot slipped and that he must have another chance. Again they clinched, and again the fellow was downed. Stung by the taunts of the crowd, the loser demanded a third trial. By this time "River Sam," who usually was calm and soft-spoken, had become exasperated by the bully's refusal to acknowledge defeat, and seizing the lout for the third time in no gentle or uncertain manner, lifted him wholly off his feet and dashed him to the ground. As the vanquished swaggerer laid stretched out, "River Sam" was heard to exclaim, "Now lie there! I guess you just don't know who is in Gill," a pronouncement that soon became town bywords.

THE YEAR 1816—TWELVE MONTHS OF WINTER

The year 1816 has passed down in the annals of New England history as a year without parallel, and the shivering farmers of Massachusetts looked back upon it as "Eighteen-Hundred-and-Froze-to-Death."

In every month of the year there was frost or snow, and for only short periods were the people able to doff their mittens and earmuffs. Water froze in the middle of May even as far south as Virginia, and six inches of snow accompanied by severe cold in the fore-part of June destroyed all gardens and sowing, and killed great numbers of lambs and young fowl. June then turned about and furnished the hottest days of the whole summer, when for three days near the end of the month the thermometer soared to 101 degrees. On July 4th in the following week, however, the populace was again wearing its heaviest clothing, and the month of August brought another freeze. Twelve inches of snow ushered in the month of October, and winter was back again in earnest.

The loss of vegetables and fruit, of hay and grain crops, as well as so many of the young flock and herd, caused widespread destitution among the farmers in this locality, and none others escaped entirely the pinch of deprivation. So much suffering and sickness resulted that many believed it to be a signal from the Lord that they should move elsewhere, and out of the general discouragement and poverty experienced was wrought the great migration to the Middle West from New England in 1817 and the years directly following.

Gill lost many of its families at that time—some to the territory of the Western Reserve, others to New York State where the projected Erie Canal offered prospects. Quite a colony of families from Gill—Andrus, Ballard, Barnes, Bascom, Hillman, Hollister, Mayhew, Morley, Slate, and Sprague—settled at Bristolville, Ohio, where many descendants are to be found at the present time.

THE GREAT THUNDERSTORM

One of the worst thunderstorms on record in this vicinity occurred Friday August 22, 1884, and many inhabitants of Gill suffered serious property damage from the effects of either of lightning or of the down-pour of rain that reached almost cloudburst proportions. The torrential rain, accompanied by high wind, reached its height about one o'clock in the afternoon. A barn recently erected by Josiah D. Canning was struck by lightning and a valuable horse was barely saved. With commendable presence of mind, Mr. Canning's daughter ran to the meetinghouse and rang the bell, and through the exertions of the families nearby, who responded promptly, Mr. Canning's house was saved. Twenty-five tons of hay, an acre each of rye and oats, as well as farm wagons and tools, were lost with the barn.

At about the same time, the barn on the old Stratton place near Morgan's Ferry, owned at the time by Fred Abbott, was destroyed with all its contents, including fourteen head of cattle, some swine, a horse,

and all the farm crops and tools. Two farmhands were at work in the basement of the barn at the time, and were unaware the barn had been struck until roused by a neighbor. They succeeded in getting out the horse, but the animal was so badly burned they were obliged to dispose of it. Asa C. Howe also lost two head of cattle that were killed by lightning while in the pasture.

Washouts on the New London Northern Railroad caused train service to be stopped for several days, and the worst washout, 33 feet wide and 30 feet deep, occurred near the Gill station in Northfield Farms.

WILD PIGEONS

Vast flocks of wild pigeons at one time flew over this town annually in their migrations north and south. So very great were these flocks that the sun is said to have often been blotted out. Hundreds of the pigeons were killed at once by the discharge of cannons loaded up with the odds and ends of broken metal and crockery, and pigeon pie was a common dish in the farmer's fare.

Many a pigeon, whose endurance had been exhausted, would cease its northward flight and spend the summer here to raise havoc with the grain crops. John Thornton, who grew the finest buckwheat in town, often told how he sprang his old flintlock musket seventeen times before it discharged, and when it finally went off killed seven pigeons.

"Wild pigeons are uncommonly plenty this year. They have been sold in this village for twenty cents a dozen, picked and dressed. In some papers it is stated they have been sold elsewhere at twelve and a half cents a dozen."

(Greenfield Gazette & Herald, September 15, 1829)

The pigeons must have encountered some natural catastrophe, as the migrations suddenly ceased and the wild pigeons apparently completely disappeared.

Chapter 30

SELECTMEN AND TOWN CLERKS

SELECTMEN

1793-94	Moses Bascom, William Smalley, Noah Munn
1795	Noah Munn, Philip Ballard, David Wrisley, 2nd
1796-97	Noah Munn, Philip Ballard, Reuben Shattuck
1798	Moses Bascom, Noah Munn, Gilbert Stacy
1799	Noah Munn, Philip Ballard, Gilbert Stacy
1800-01	Noah Munn, Gilbert Stacy, Reuben Shattuck
1802	Gilbert Stacy, Job Goodale, Samuel Stoughton
1803	Gilbert Stacy, Noah Munn, Moses Bascom, Jr.
1804	Noah Munn, Philip Ballard, Ebenezer Chapin
1805	Noah Munn, Ebenezer Chapin, Seth S. Howland
1806	Gilbert Stacy, Seth S. Howland, Eldad Munn
1807	Gilbert Stacy, Seth S. Howland, Samuel Janes
1808	Seth S. Howland, Samuel Janes, Henry White
1809-10	Gilbert Stacy, Seth S. Howland, Samuel Janes
1811	Seth S. Howland, Samuel Janes, James Ewers
1812	Moses Bascom, Seth S. Howland, Eldad Munn
1813	Moses Bascom, Eldad Munn, John Barns
1814	Eldad Munn, John Barns, Calvin Howland
1815	Eldad Munn, Ezra Purple, Calvin Howland
1816	Eldad Munn, Calvin Howland, Bethuel Slate
1817	Seth S. Howland, Elijah Ballard, Solomon Mallard
1818	Solomon Mallard, Elijah Ballard, Samuel G. Chapin
1819	Ezra Purple, Elijah Ballard, John Bates
1820	Ezra Purple, John Bates, Josiah Pomeroy, Jr.
1821	Ezra Purple, John Bates, Samuel G. Chapin
1822	Ezra Purple, Joel Lyons, Reuben Kenney
1823-24	Josiah Pomeroy, Dorus Bascom, Samuel G. Chapin
1825	Ezra Purple, Josiah Clark, Smith Hodges
1826	Ezra Purple, Smith Hodges, Alvah Ballard
1827	Ezra Purple, Seth S. Howland, Bethuel Slate
1828	Josiah Pomeroy, Seth S. Howland, Alfred Goodrich
1829-30	Josiah Pomeroy, Alfred Alvord, Roswell Purple
1831	Alfred Alvord, Roswell Purple, Dorus Bascom
1832	Ezra Purple, Alvah Ballard, Samuel Stratton

1833	Joseph Sprague, Alvah Ballard, Samuel Stratton
1834	Ezra Purple, Dorus Bascom, Hetsell Purple
1835	Samuel Janes, Jr., Dorus Bascom, Hetsell Purple
1836	Samuel Janes, Jr., Ezra Purple, Roswell Purple
1837	Joel Lyons, Edward F. Henry, John A. Tenney
1838	Alvah Ballard, Samuel Janes, Jr., Henry Bascom
1839	Samuel Stratton, 2nd, Eliphalet S. Darling, Henry Bascom
1840	Loren Hale, Eliphalet S. Darling, Henry Bascom
1841	Benjamin Barton, Eliphalet S. Darling, Henry Bascom
1842	Benjamin Barton, Timothy M. Stoughton, Henry Bascom
1843-44	Nelson Burrows, Timothy M. Stoughton, Henry Bascom
1845-47	Eliphalet S. Darling, Leonard Barton, Lathrop Cushman
1848	Noble P. Phillips, Leonard Barton, Pascal Marvel
1849	Henry Bascom, Timothy M. Stoughton, Nelson Burrows
1850	Leonard Barton, Lathrop Cushman, Pascal Marvel
1851	Leonard Barton, Lathrop Cushman, Jonathan S. Purple
1852-53	Prentice Slate, William E. Goodrich, Jonathan S. Purple
1854	Prentice Slate, William E. Goodrich, Henry Bascom
1855	Jonathan S. Purple, Benjamin B. Barton, Samuel P. Stratton
1856	Ezra O. Purple, Benjamin B. Barton, Samuel P. Stratton
1857	Henry Bascom, Dexter A. Clark, Ozias Roberts
1858	Henry Bascom, Simon C. Phillips, Ozias Roberts
1859	Leonard Barton, Samuel P. Stratton, Ozias Roberts
1860-62	Leonard Barton, Samuel P. Stratton, Ezra O. Purple
1863	Henry Bascom, Samuel P. Stratton, Ozias Roberts
1864	Ezra O. Purple, Samuel P. Stratton, Simon C. Phillips
1865	Albert E. Deane, Joseph B. Marble, Simon C. Phillips
1866	Ezra O. Purple, Samuel P. Stratton, Simon C. Phillips
1867-72	Ezra O. Purple, Samuel P. Stratton, Leonard Barton
1873-76	Ezekiel L. Bascom, Samuel P. Stratton, John H. Clark
1877-79	Samuel P. Stratton, John H. Clark, Ralph Goodrich
1880	Samuel P. Stratton, Ralph L. Atherton, Lewis E. Clark
1881	Samuel P. Stratton, Lewis E. Clark, Henry B. Barton
1882	Samuel P. Stratton, Lewis E. Clark, Dorus A. Bascom
1883-85	Henry B. Barton, Asa C. Howe, Asa O. Stoughton
1886	Samuel P. Stratton, John H. Clark, Henry W. Loveland
1887	Samuel P. Stratton, John H. Clark, Dorus A. Bascom
1888-90	Samuel P. Stratton, John H. Clark, Henry Park
1891	Samuel P. Stratton, John L. S. Moore, Henry Park
1892-93	Samuel P. Stratton, John L. S. Moore, Frank B. Foster
1894	Samuel P. Stratton, Frank B. Foster, William A. Boyle
1895-96	Frank B. Foster, John L. S. Moore, William A. Boyle

1897-99	Frank B. Foster, William F. Nichols, William A. Boyle
1900	Frank B. Foster, William A. Boyle, Gilbert Stacy
1901-02	Frank B. Foster, Gilbert Stacy, William J. Moore
1903	Frank B. Foster, William A. Boyle, Lewis L. Hastings
1904-06	Frank B. Foster, William A. Boyle, Ernest C. Atherton
1907	Frank B. Foster, William A. Boyle, Frank N. Bascom
1908	Frank B. Foster, Frank N. Bascom, Ernest C. Atherton
1909	Ernest C. Atherton, Frank N. Bascom, Wallace J. Harrington
1910	Ernest C. Atherton, Frank N. Bascom
1911-12	Ernest C. Atherton, Francis A. Foster, Julian P. Twitchell
1913	Julian P. Twitchell, Francis A. Foster, Charles O. Bruce
1914	Peleg W. Eddy, Charles R. Stoughton, Charles O. Bruce
1915	Charles O. Bruce, Ernest C. Atherton, Lewis C. Munn
1916-17	Charles O. Bruce, Peleg W. Eddy, Ernest C. Atherton
1918-20	Charles O. Bruce, Clayton C. Frissell, J. George Koch
1921-22	Charles O. Bruce, Clayton C. Frissell, Ernest C. Atherton
1923	Charles O. Bruce, Clayton C. Frissell, Frank W. Brown
1924-25	Charles O. Bruce, Clayton C. Frissell, Lyman W. Hale
1926-28	Charles O. Bruce, William A. Boyle, Frank W. Brown
1929	Charles O. Bruce, Frank W. Brown, Robert H. LeVitre
1930-31	Charles O. Bruce, Lyman W. Hale, Peleg W. Eddy
1932-35	Charles O. Bruce, Herbert L. Barton, George E. Hastings
1936	Charles O. Bruce, Herbert L. Barton, John S. Eastman
1937	Charles O. Bruce, John S. Eastman, S. Fred Kerslake, Jr.
1938	A. Louis Schneider, Dorilla O. Paul, Charles O. Bruce
1939	S. Fred Kerslake, Jr., Gordon F. Pyper, A. Louis Schneider
1940-43	S. Fred Kerslake, Jr., Gordon F. Pyper, Ernest E. Blake

TOWN CLERKS

1793-1800	Moses Bascom, Jr.	1855-65	Josiah D. Canning
1801-10	Philip Ballard	1866	Simon C. Phillips
1811-12	Gilbert Stacy	1867-72	Josiah D. Canning
1813-27	Seth S. Howland	1873-82	Otis F. Hale
1828-42	Ozias Roberts	1883-89	Josiah D. Canning
1843-51	Eliphalet S. Darling	1890	Samuel P. Stratton
1852	Ozias Roberts	1891-1932	Henry B. Barton
1853-54	Leonard Barton	1933-	Earle F. Squires

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